Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 148 | SATURDAY - SUNDAY JUNE 23-24, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Finance yet to issue revenue collection, spending report. PAGE 2
Notorious burglar arrested for robbery, sexual assault. PAGE 3

OPINION METER
This week's poll:

What do you think is a reasonable rate for Internet access in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

MAHARLIKA

A Guam senator reminded members of the Filipino community in the CNMI about their value as part of the Commonwealth's workforce, saying that their "biggest asset" is their own contribution to the economic development and success of the islands. ➤ PAGE 10

BUSINESS

Major hotel brands are bending over backward to cater to the needs of the world's most sought-after traveler: the Chinese tourist. ➤ PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE

Broadcasters anticipating a major constitutional ruling on the government's authority to regulate what can be shown and said on the airwaves instead won only the smallest of Supreme Court victories Thursday. ➤ PAGE 20

Fitial wants OPA to stop probe on ARRA sole-source contract award

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday that the Office of the Public Auditor should now stop its investigation on the administration's almost $400,000 sole-source contract award to former Commerce secretary Mike Ada's Integrated Professional Solutions to manage ARRA funds. Fitial reiterated that the contract award did not violate laws or rules.

Fitial

A Senate panel is still pursuing the matter, but the ones it asked to investigate both the contract award and attorney general Edward Buckingham in relation to his advice to award the ARRA contract, recused themselves from the probe, including the NMI Bar Association

See FITIAL on Page 4

'BLUE CONTINENT' LAWMAKERS ELECT NEW OFFICERS

APIL adopts 20 resolutions on climate change, tourism

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures adopted yesterday 20 resolutions on a host of issues such as proposed actions to combat climate change, strengthen tourism, and prioritize high-speed Internet access that each member could take back to their respective island nation for implementation.

Lawmakers from Pacific island nations and territories collectively known as the "Blue Continent" also elected a new set of officers for 2012-2013 led

See APIL on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, left, and U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs Director Nikolao Pula shake hands in front of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, seated center, as lawmakers and others look on after a closed-door meeting on First International Corp.'s proposal to build a ship recycling facility on Tinian, in the Senate chamber on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.

OIA works with CNMI on Tinian ship recycling facility

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs Director Nikolau Pula said yesterday his office is open to assisting the CNMI by way of allowing the redirection of capital improvement project funds to help repair the Tinian pier which, in turn, would help support a proposed multimillion Tinian ship recycling facility.

First International Corp. or FIC owner Paul Slater is currently in the CNMI to reaffirm their interest in putting up a ship recycling facility on Tinian.

The proposed facility will turn decommissioned U.S. naval ships into scrap metal and sell them in the open market.

But the project hinges on, among other things, the necessary repair of the Tinian pier. This is where the CNMI needs OIA's help.

Pula and Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said there is no specific amount of CIP money requested yet for reprogramming because this amount could be known today, after CNMI officials meet with the FIC owner on Tinian.

Pula said the Tinian recycling facility could bring economic development to Tinian, and OIA would like to be able to help.

"The meeting they have (today) will

See OIA on Page 4

Local

Finance yet to issue revenue collection, spending report

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Finance has yet to issue a report showing the government's actual revenue collection and spending for the second quarter of fiscal year 2012 or from January to March, which lawmakers said could help the legislative budget process for fiscal year 2013.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said Finance is "currently in the end-stage of final reconciliation of the figures to be included in the report."

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said it has been three months since the end of the second quarter of fiscal year 2012 and yet the administration has not issued the report, which he said could show whether the government spent within its means after posting deficits for years and quarters.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) said his committee is also waiting for the quarterly report as they work on the 2013 budget bill because that would give the members an idea of the government's latest collection and spending activities.

Basa said he plans to introduce the 2013 budget bill soon, which will still reflect a $102 million ceiling, the same as the 2012 budget. He also said there will still be a 16-hour work cut every two weeks.

Fiscal year 2013 is from Oct. 1, 2012, to Sept. 30, 2013.

But the first quarter 2012 financial report from Finance showed a budget surplus of $1.06 million, an improvement from the quarterly average deficit of $6.45 million in fiscal year 2011.

CPA employees assured of stable working hours until next fiscal year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority acting executive director Derek Sasamoto assured all airport and seaport personnel on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota of stable working hours not only until the end of this fiscal year but throughout FY 2013.

Sasamoto, also the agency's comptroller, said the proposed budget for next fiscal year carries the same 80-hour working schedule for all staff as warranted by the agency's projected revenues and collections. He declined to disclose figures but is optimistic that these are achievable.

However, the acting executive director pointed out that the CPA budget can be impacted by unexpected challenges that may occur.

"Our operating budget is very turbulent and anything can happen. But no matter what we're doing, CPA is very cautious on our financial," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Sasamoto said at present, CPA has about 200 employees working at airports and seaports. CPA, he said, has no plans of increasing personnel count but ensures that key vacant positions are being replaced by qualified people.

Among these is the Rota manager position that was left vacant by Thomas Manglona, who was fired from service effective May 9. Sasamoto said an interim official was named by the agency while recruitment process is ongoing.

Sasamoto also said that CPA, as of June 20, remains in full compliance with both airport and seaport bond requirements. The comptroller vowed to keep this status at all times.

It's been three years now that the ports authority has been meeting and even exceeding the bond requirements for both airport and seaport. This achievement, according to Sasamoto, is something that CPA is very proud of. He also cited the ports authority's clean audit reports that reflect the financial performance of the agency.

Early this year, Fitch Ratings upgraded the rating on both CNMI seaport and airport revenue bonds. For the airport, rating was positively adjusted from "CCC" to "B-" which means the outlook is graded to stable from negative primarily due to the improvement on the passenger facility charge which was designated as gross revenues of the agency.

For seaport, Fitch accorded an affirmation of its "BB-" rating and received an upgrade to its outlook from negative to stable also which signifies that seaports are projected to not have difficulties making debt service payments and that cash flows are sufficient to cover debt service through its five-year forecast period.

As a result of improved revenues, the CPA board in February also approved a 5 percent across-the-board salary hike for employees in recognizing their hard work and contributions to the agency.

GVB, MVA discuss joint efforts to promote 'Destination Marianas'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, Guam Visitors Bureau chair Monte Mesa, MVA chair Marian Aldan-Pierce, GVB general manager Joann Camacho, and Tan Holdings president and MVA board member Jerry Tan after a meeting held last June 19 at the Kanoa Resort.

Guam Visitors Bureau chair Monte Mesa and general manager Joann Camacho were on Saipan from June 19 to 20 to meet with Marianas Visitors Authority chair Marian Aldan-Pierce and managing director Perry Tenorio.

The meeting highlighted the commitment by both State Tourism Organizations (STO) to continue working together to promote "Destination Marianas" in travel trade shows internationally.

In March of this year, GVB and MVA sent a joint delegation to Moscow, Russia to promote the Mariana Islands at the 2012 Moscow International Exhibition Travel and Tourism (MITT).The largest travel show in Russia, MITT marked renewed efforts by GVB and MVA to promote Guam and the CNMI jointly.

In a joint statement, GVB and MVA reiterated that there are other opportunities for the STO's to work together adding that, "MITT was just the beginning of this collaborative relationship to promote the Marianas region. Markets like Russia present many opportunities for economic growth for both jurisdictions. By working together we will be able to maximize opportunities for inter-island travel that will benefit the people of both Guam and the CNMI."

While on Saipan, Camacho and Mesa also took the opportunity to meet with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, who recently launched Saipan Air in Tokyo.

Mesa reiterated GVB's commitment on behalf of its board of directors to work with MVA for the benefit of the Marianas. In a separate meeting, Tan gave an update on Saipan Air, which will begin servicing the CNMI on July 1, 2012. ***(GVB)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Wednesday, June 27, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan**. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
a. CDBG Update (Proposed Koblerville Jr. High School)
b. Deloitte & Touche LLC (Financial Audit Exit Interview)

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. OTHER MATTERS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.

Nonprofit hospital for children on Tinian for outreach program

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shriners Hospitals for Children, a network of 22 non-profit hospitals across North America, extended its helping arm to the Commonwealth after conducting an outreach program to the children of Tinian.

Tinian Health Center acting resident director Freddy Hofschneider disclosed that visiting doctors were on Tinian center yesterday where they treated and provided care to 24 total patients from the island.

Hofschneider said the following are the visiting medical providers who arrived on island last Thursday: Dr. Jonathan Pellett, Orthopoedic; Cherlyn Caneda, nurse practitioner; and Sandy Zuberan, outreach program coordinator of Shriners Hospital for Children.

Hofschneider said Shriners hospital provides care for children with bone, joint, and neuromuscular conditions in Hawaii and throughout the Asia/Pacific region from locations such as American Samoa, Chuuk, Fiji, Guam, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and the CNMI.

Children up to age 18 with certain medical conditions and who are eligible for care receive all services in a family-centered environment regardless of the patients' ability to pay. Tinian Health Center, he said, extends appreciation to the hospital staff for their continued commitment in visiting THC facility and providing care to the children who have special medical needs.

Hofschneider said this is not the first-time Shriners conducted an outreach on Tinian. He disclosed that the hospital has been visiting the island twice a year.

THC has been finding difficulty in hiring a full-time physician. Since the departure of Dr. Steven Lebamoff last year, a replacement has yet been identified.

According to the resident director, THC currently has a regular rotation of medical doctor and physician assistant from Commonwealth Health Center who provides continuous medical treatment to Tinian patients.

He said recruitment efforts are ongoing for the doctor position and which he indicated getting some positive feedback. Hofschneider said the corporation's chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta is closely working with THC on this effort.

Notorious burglar arrested for robbery, sexual assault

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Martin T. Castro Jr., a notorious burglar, was arrested again on Thursday, this time for allegedly robbing an employee of a car rental company and sexually assaulting her.

» Suspect throws away surveillance camera, but it lands on grassy area

A surveillance camera that Castro allegedly tried to destroy was instrumental in the police's investigation leading to his arrest.

Castro, 26, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon on charges of robbery, burglary, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, criminal mischief, and sexual assault in the second degree.

Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho found probable cause to continue the detention of Castro on all charges.

Camacho imposed a $42,250 cash bail for the defendant's temporary release.

Preliminary hearing will be on June 27 at 9am.

At the hearing, assistant attorney general Darren Robinson called to the witness stand Detective Melissa Bauleong, who narrated to the court the circumstances leading to Castro's arrest.

Bauleong said based on preliminary investigation an employee of QQ Car Rental left their office in Susupe on Thursday morning.

When the employee came back after a few minutes, she was surprised that a man later identified as Castro was already inside their office.

The employee asked Castro to leave, but the suspect grabbed the victim's purse containing $500 that she placed on a desk.

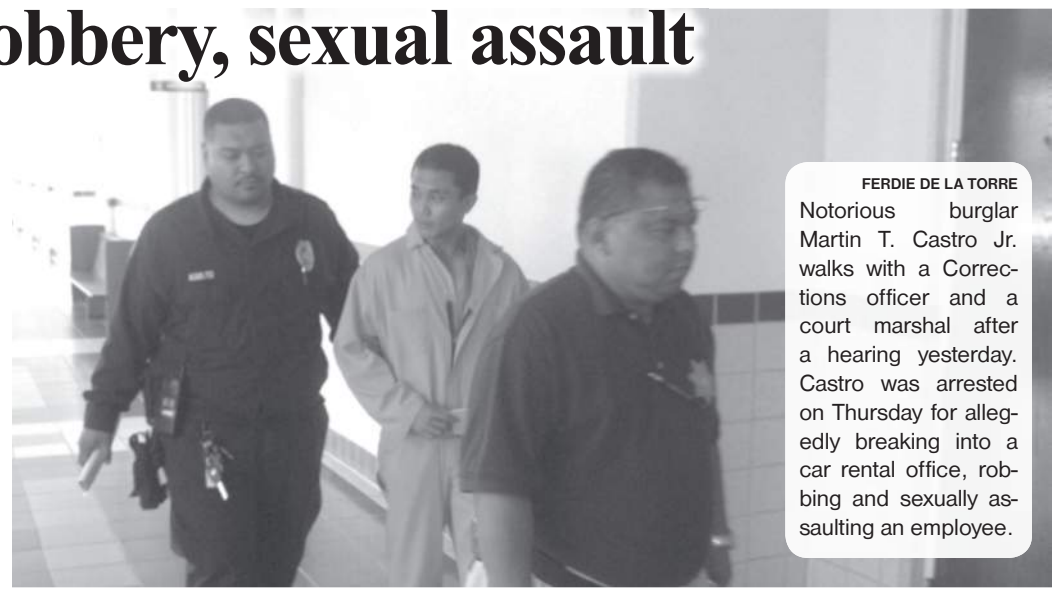
Castro then allegedly grabbed the employee from behind and dragged her to a room. As both fell on the floor, the suspect allegedly touched the victim's private parts.

The victim struggled and managed to run outside where she then called the police. Castro also fled.

Police learned that Castro noticed a surveillance camera in the establishment so he removed it, then threw it from the window.

The surveillance camera, however, was not destroyed as it landed on a grassy area. Police recovered the equipment and reviewed the footage, resulting in the identification of Castro.

Castro is still on probation in connection with a 2010 burglary case in which he pleaded guilty. He also pleaded guilty in another burglary case in 2005.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Notorious burglar Martin T. Castro Jr. walks with a Corrections officer and a court marshal after a hearing yesterday. Castro was arrested on Thursday for allegedly breaking into a car rental office, robbing and sexually assaulting an employee.

In September 2010, Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a one-year jail term on Castro for stealing a laptop computer belonging to a woman.

"You're already 24 years old. Change your criminal career," Wiseman then told Castro.

The plea agreement stated that, on July 17, 2010 on Saipan, Castro stole the laptop computer belong to Carol S. Williams.

In September 2009, police also arrested Castro for allegedly trying to break into one of the classrooms of San Antonio Elementary School. A digital camera was found in his possession.

Castro and two minors were arrested in December 2003 after they were identified as those who burglarized and stole several items from a law office of retired presiding judge Edward Manibusan.

Tinian cop arrested for sexual abuse of a minor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police arrested on Thursday a Tinian police officer who is allegedly living together with an 18-year-old woman that gave birth to their son in 2010.

Police Officer Kioni Raymond Cabuang Cruz, 22, was served with an arrest warrant for charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree and sexual abuse of a minor in the fourth degree.

» But OAG may not pursue charges due to consensual relationship

At yesterday's bail hearing, Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho told Cruz that as a police officer he will receive no special treatment.

Camacho released Cruz on $10,000 property bond after the Office of the Attorney General revealed that the government is considering of not filing a case against Cruz.

Detective Barbara K. Arend stated in her report that when the woman gave birth on Sept. 18, 2010 she was only 16 years old and Cruz was then 20 years old and already a police officer.

Arend said that, on Sept. 29, 2011, Cruz told her that his live-in partner, who was then 17 years old, was pregnant again.

At yesterday's bail hearing, assistant attorney general Darren Robinson disclosed that the government may not pursue charges against Cruz.

Robinson said based on their interview with the woman, the two have a consensual relationship and that her parents are aware of it.

This prompted defense attorney Michael Evangelista to move for the immediate release of Cruz.

Evangelista said since the prosecution has expressed its intention of not pursuing the case, it would be an injustice to put Cruz in jail even for an hour or a minute over the weekend.

Evangelista pointed out that the government is in serious doubt.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho stated that he is very reluctant to release Cruz with no bail at all because these very serious charges—sexual abuse of a minor—and the defendant is a police officer.

Camacho said associate judge David A. Wiseman found probable cause to issue the arrest warrant for Cruz on Thursday.

The judge also noted that another assistant attorney general also signed the declaration of probable cause in support of the issuance of the warrant of arrest.

Evangelista then told the court that as an alternative, the defense is ready to offer a property bond. He orally moved to modify the $10,000 cash bail that Judge Wiseman earlier imposed on.

Robinson agreed to recommend a $10,000 property bond instead.

Evangelista called Cruz's father to the witness stand to serve as third-party custodian for the defendant.

Judge Camacho found the father appropriate to serve as third-party custodian and released Cruz on $10,000 property bond.

Camacho, however, imposed many conditions, including surrender of firearm to Tinian Department of Public Safety, stay away from the alleged victim, among other terms.

Fund seeks court approval for sale of San Vicente property

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund is seeking authority from the U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division to approve the sale of the Fund's 886 square meters of real property in San Vicente for $125,000.

Attorney Jeremy B. Coffey, counsel for the Fund, said the Fund believes that selling the property is in the best interest of the estate and its creditors because the sale proceeds will increase the estate's cash assets to the benefit of all creditors, and divest a non-core asset.

In a motion for entry of order filed on Thursday in court, Coffey said that, on May 18, 2012, the Fund and James H. Arriola entered into a purchase and sale agreement.

The lawyer said purchaser Arriola acknowledges that the Fund acquired the premises through foreclosure and judicial sale.

Coffey said there are no known liens or encumbrances on the property.

The lawyer said an inspection and appraisal by Pacific Rim International estimated the fair market value of the property at $125,000.

The purchase agreement provides that the Fund has agreed to sell the property to Arriola for $125,000, which is to be paid in its entirety at the time of closing the sale less the $5,000 earnest money already deposited with Security Title Inc.

The agreement, Coffey said, requires the Fund to obtain court approval of the sale on or before July 15, 2012.

Coffey requested the court to waive the 14-day stay of the order authorizing the sale so that, the Fund will be able to close on the transaction within the time period prescribed by the purchase and sale agreement.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DRAFT EIS FOR DIVERT ACTIVITIES AND EXERCISES, GUAM AND COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The U.S. Air Force (USAF) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Divert Activities and Exercises, Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) for public review. The Draft EIS is available for download on the project website address listed below.

The USAF requests comments on the Draft EIS and will host open public hearings on the islands of Saipan and Tinian. The proposed action analyzed in the Draft EIS is to improve an existing airport or airports and associated infrastructure in the Mariana Islands region in support of expanding mission requirements and to achieve divert capabilities in the western Pacific. The proposed airfield and infrastructure improvements would be designed to support a combination of cargo, fighter, and tanker aircraft and associated support personnel for divert landings, periodic exercises, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief activities. Proposed facilities would be used on an as-needed basis and would not be used as a permanent full-time beddown or installation location. Saipan International Airport and Tinian International Airport are considered alternative locations for the proposed action. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the USAF has prepared a Draft EIS and is providing this documentation to the public for review.

In addition to electronic files that can be downloaded at the project website address listed below, printed copies of the Draft EIS will available for review until July 23, 2012 at:

- Guam- University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library; Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library; Andersen Air Force Base Library
- Saipan- Saipan Office of the Mayor; Joeten-Kiyu Public Library
- Tinian- Tinian Office of the Mayor; Tinian Public Library
- Rota- Rota Office of the Mayor; Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Library.

The public is encouraged to attend the Draft EIS public hearings, which will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

1. June 25, 2012 - Saipan Multi-Purpose Center, Beach Road, Susupe Village, Saipan, 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
2. June 26, 2012 - Tinian Elementary School, San Jose Village, Tinian, 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Federal agencies, government of CNMI agencies, the public, and other interested parties are encouraged to provide verbal and/or written comments to the USAF for consideration in the Final EIS. Verbal and/or written comments may be submitted at the public hearings or via postal mail. All comments must be submitted or postmarked no later than July 23, 2012.

Mail comments to:

Capt Rebecca Heyse, PACAF/PA
25 E Street, Suite G-108
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI 96853
ATTN: PACAF Divert Marianas EIS

In addition, comments on the Draft EIS will be accepted via telephone voice recording system by dialing 1-855-200-6734, and via the project website at:

www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com.

OIA supports Marshall Islands education, medical initiatives

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, Tony Babauta, has authorized two Technical Assistance grants for the Republic of the Marshall Islands: 1) $385,000 to the College of the Marshall Islands (CMI) for a new Student Information System; and 2) $20,000 to create a partnership between the RMI and the Flying Doctors of America (FDoA).

"I am pleased to be working closely with President Loeak and his new Administration, identifying service gaps which will improve capacity for youth and increase the delivery of healthcare," said Assistant Secretary Babauta. "The U.S. government continues to have serious dialogue with Pacific leaders to focus on our efforts in creating partnerships and supporting initiatives which will help spur development, create opportunity, and build capacity in the Freely Associated States (FAS).

Funding for the College of the Marshall Islands will support its acquisition of a new Student Information System. The new system will allow the CMI, as well as its stakeholders, to better understand the effectiveness of their programs and be able to measure student success and weakness. It will also provide the CMI an internal tool to measure its own efficiency as an organization, which will help guide CMI's leadership decision making, ensuring that all their work is focused on improving student performance and maintaining accreditation.

Funding to support a new partnership between the RMI and the FDoA is an initiative strongly supported by President Loeak. This partnership is a unique opportunity to leverage scarce resources by coordinating healthcare professional expertise and initiating an exchange between the RMI and FDoA that works to improve the quality of medical care provided to residents.

In March, Babauta convened a Pacific Island Leaders Addressing Compact Impact (PILACI) meeting; bringing together members of the Micronesian Chief Executives, the State of Hawaii, Congressional representatives of Guam and the CNMI, as well as U.S Federal Interagency Government counterparts from the Departments of State. The meeting focused on Compact impact and ways to support meaningful outcomes in both the FAS and affected jurisdictions. The award of these grants provide needed resources to improve health and education capacity in the RMI. Such action advances OIA's Compact Impact Initiative that serves to strengthen bilateral relationships and forge a collaborative way forward to address priority needs.

APIL

From Page 1

by Guam Speaker Judith T. Won Pat as incoming president.

Walden Weilbacher of the APIL Secretariat said the new set of officers' term starts on Oct. 1, 2012.

The incoming vice president is Marshall Islands Senator Kenneth Kedi; Kosrae Senator will be the incoming secretary; and Pohnpei Vice Speaker Fernando Scaliem as treasurer.

Weilbacher said the next venue for the APIL 32nd General Assembly is in Majuro in the Marshall Islands in June 2013.

Rebluud Kesolei, the current president of APIL and a Palau delegate, said climate change is affecting islands and atolls of the Blue Continent and APIL needs local, regional, and international actions to combat its devastating effects.

"This is from a lot of developed countries that are not very responsible in terms of combating or limiting green house gases, and affecting us here on the islands. What happens in China, what happens in the U.S. or Germany or elsewhere, affects us here in the Blue Continent," Kesolei said in an interview.

Kesolei said rising sea levels are already eating up on atolls such as those on Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

Pohnpei senator Cindy Lekka, in a separate interview, said on the outer island of Nukuoro where she is from, rising seawater has already been damaging taro patches.

Kesolei and fellow Palau delegates Horace Rafael and Regis Akitaya introduced a three-page resolution that was later on adopted by the regional body, asking APIL members to commit to take positive action as lawmakers and policymakers to effect changes on the local, regional, and international levels to combat devastating effects.

The Palau delegates said presentations by environment experts Dr. Robert Richmond of University of Hawaii and Dr. Meg Caldwell of the Center for Ocean Solutions "further confirm APIL's position that climate change is a continuing serious threat to coral reefs and island nations."

APIL recognizes meaningful steps that member entities have taken to combat climate change specifically to protect coral reefs, such as protection of watersheds and establishment of marine protected areas; the Micronesian Challenge commitment to conserve 30 percent of near-shore marine resources and 20 percent of terrestrial resources; Kiribati's establishment of the Phoenix Islands Protected Area; and American Samoa's climate change action plan and resolutions to the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force.

CNMI Senate floor leader Pete Reyes' (R-Saipan) resolution, meanwhile, urges all APIL members to work together to secure alternative and affordable fuel sources.

His other resolution requests APIL members to join the CNMI in its quest for reciprocal driver's license between the CNMI and Guam.

Guam Sens. Judi Won Pat and Chris Duenas urge the establishment of a sister organization partnership between APIL and the Pacific Coalition of Non-Profits and Community-Based Services represented by Payu-Ta Inc.

The partnership will provide guidance and support in developing plans and strategies to mobilize resources to meet the needs of islands and to work collectively toward island sustainability in the region.

The Pacific Coalition is an informal group of advocates and service providers from Guam, the CNMI, Hawaii, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, the Marshall Islands, Hawaii, and American Samoa.

Edgar Lickaneth, from Pohnpei, called upon each APIL member to recognize the need to prioritize high-speed broadband internet access in the region, and solicit the support of each respective executive branch to help legislative assemblies in promoting a joint initiative, "Connecting the Blue Continent."

"Some of the larger islands of the APIL members have already been blessed with oceanic cables allowing for the installation of high-speed broadband Internet services. Unfortunately, there are still many island jurisdictions of the APIL which must rely on the primitive and very limited capacities of satellite phone linkages or must contend with no internet linkages at all," Lickaneth said in his resolution.

Guam's Won Pat also asks APIL members to support and advocate for the full implementation of the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program for Chinese and Russian tourists. The U.S. government granted visa waiver for Chinese and Russian tourists visiting the CNMI, but only granted a visa waiver for Russian tourists visiting Guam.

Guam's Chris Duenas, Pohnpei's Fernando Scaliem, and Palau's Rafael urge the Micronesia Chief Executives Summit to adopt and promulgate the Blue Continent Free Trade Agreement to assist in the advancement of APIL and MCES member island economies.

CNMI's House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro's (Cov-Saipan) resolutions ask each APIL member state to mandate foreign governments, corporations, investors, and other entities interested in conducting scientific research and studies and other activities within the jurisdiction of APIL member states, "to comply with the laws and regulations of the State" and pay certain percentage of dividends from revenues earned from such projects.

Ogumoro also urged the U.S. Congress to recognize the longstanding rights of persons from APIL member states with respect to their political agreements and relationships with the U.S.

Kiribati's Parliament Members Matiota Kairo and Tetabo Nakara request United Airlines to extend their air service to APIL member states which are not presently included in their service routes, including Kiribati.

Appreciations, recognitions

Some of the adopted resolutions were in recognition of individuals and entities, as well as condolences.

APIL president Rebluud Kesolei's resolution thanked the CNMI Legislature for hosting APIL's 31st General Assembly. The CNMI co-chairs are Reyes and Ogumoro.

Kesolei also recognized U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs Director Nikolao Pula for being the keynote speaker at the APIL general assembly and for his contributions to the people of the APIL member states.

The APIL president also thanked all the presenters at the general assembly.

Members also expressed appreciation to the Republic of China as a "proactive development partner" in the Pacific region and reiterating support for ROC's meaningful participation as an observer in the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Palau's Kesolei, Guam's Won Pat, and Pohnpei's Scaliem's joint resolution conveyed condolences to the family, relatives, and friends of the late retired U.S. Army Sgt. First Class and Pohnpei State Police Capt. Frank Mendiola Semens of Pohnpei.

Members also expressed condolences to the late former first lady of Yap, Marita Philip Anefal.

The four-day general assembly wraps up today with a tour of Managaha Island.

OIA

From Page 1

determine the exact cost," he told reporters after the meeting.

Dela Cruz and members of the Tinian Legislative Delegation led by Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian), and Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) held a closed-door meeting in the Senate chamber yesterday with Pula, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, CIP Office representatives and the Commonwealth Ports Authority to get consensus on the project. Most of them are set to meet today, again, with FIC officials on Tinian.

After yesterday's closed-door meeting, Dela Cruz said the CNMI will make an official request to OIA to allow the reprogramming of CIP money to help repair Tinian's pier.

He said today's meeting on Tinian will discuss costs, including the money that FIC is willing to invest, and the funding needed by the CNMI to repair the Tinian pier.

Dela Cruz said a minimum of $3.5 million is needed for the Tinian pier repair, which is key to getting the Tinian ship recycling facility project off the ground.

"CIP is one of them (possible funding source) and we're still working to see if we can find additional funding somewhere," he said.

But Dela Cruz said there are still provisions in the memorandum of understanding that have yet to be addressed.

He also said FIC has yet to submit a business plan.

Dela Cruz also clarified that the planned project is a ship recycling facility, not a repair facility nor a shipyard. The vessels will be "scrubbed" to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards.

FITIAL

From Page 1

and public auditor Michael Pai.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, briefly said yesterday the panel has yet to hear from Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja or the Judiciary whether they are still looking into the matter related to the AG and the ARRA contract award.

Cruz declined to further comment.

Fitial, in an interview at the Legislature yesterday afternoon, said OPA should instead "move on with something worth investigating."

But when asked which ones are worth investigating, he said "no comment."

Last year, the Senate asked OPA to probe further the ARRA contract award because the Inspector General report on the matter was not conclusive.

On Monday, Pai recused himself from investigating the matter, citing lingering perception of conflict of interest.

But Pai assigned OPA legal counsel George L. Hasselback to act on his stead "and have ultimate responsibility for the investigation, analysis, and prosecution of any wrongdoing that may be discovered as may be appropriate."

When asked whether he's concerned about OPA's continued investigation, Fitial said, "I'm not concerned. I think they better move on with something better, something worth investigating."

Fitial also questioned Pai's decision.

"How can he recuse himself? He knows that particular case very well," he said.

The governor said the public auditor wanted to be absolved.

"He is in a better position to make a decision, but not to recuse himself… Follow the same decision that the court has already rendered," Fitial said when asked what he expected OPA to do.

Fitial later clarified that it's not a court that made a decision, but the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"No not the court, but the (IG) investigation, did not prove anything… Because I told the inspector general who came out here, I said, 'You know what? I want to make something very clear to you. If the attorney general tells me not to sign that contract, I will not sign'," the governor said.

The AG gave a green light to sign the sole-source contract.

Fitial said he also asked the public auditor for his advice but didn't say anything or raise any particular concern.

"I asked Mike (Pai) to draft me a letter because he understands the case better, but basically (I was) asking the public auditor to tell me if this is unethical," Fitial said. No such letter came from OPA, he added.

Fitial, when asked what he wants OPA to do now, said, "Why are we wasting time on this issue when there's nothing wrong with it?"

The Interior IG report said evidence suggests that the CNMI government's $392,406 contract to IPS violated multiple CNMI ethics rules, including provisions against post-employment restrictions, use of office, staff, or employees of public office, restraint on use of public position to obtain private benefit, and negotiating for non-government employment.

The IG report said IPS was awarded the contract just five days after Ada resigned from government, which violates the regulatory one-year period.

But the Fitial administration said the IG report's findings are not conclusive.

Requests for comments from individuals initially critical of the ARRA sole-source contract award were either declined or not responded to as of yesterday.

The CNMI has been awarded over $119 million in ARRA grants since 2009. But as of March 30, 2012, the CNMI has yet to draw down $28.79 million.

Eucon confers diplomas to 16 graduates

» School also promotes 23 students

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Graduates of the Eucon International College listen to a speaker during their recent commencement exercises where the institution conferred diplomas to 16 high school graduates and promoted 23 students from middle school and elementary division.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eucon International School conferred diplomas to 16 high school graduates and promoted 23 other students during the institution's recent commencement exercises.

Besides the 16 senior high school students, the school also promoted 13 junior high school students and 10 sixth graders on the same recognition rites that saw the attendance of families and friends of the graduates.

In the same occasion, outstanding students in the lower grades were also bestowed recognitions and awards.

Eucon traditionally gives three annual awards in recognizing the academic excellence of the students from first grade to high school.

Recipients of the school's President Award were Allie Raine Pillarina, Joanah Victoria Jimenez, Victoria Nicole Santos, Seong Beom Song, Lenard Gabriel Marcial, and Daniel EJ Villarmero. President Award is granted to students who displayed high academic performance and exemplar attitude.

For Principal's Award, which is bestowed to students who displayed a huge improvement, the following were recognized: Luis Angelo Tolosa, Ken Rafael Cordero, Jeriah Bernabe Pecson, Ze Kun Yang, Yna Ysabelle Poquiz, Enze Zhang, Fei Chen, Yu Shan, Jing Tong Wang, Ling Ying Liu, and Si Ying Chen.

For the Dean's Award, the following were honored: Dane Hodges, Joy Esther Yan, Caleb Joshua Yan, Juancho Philippe Siasoyco, Danielle Friscal Pineda, Rui Hua Theresa Zheng, Julianna Patricia Perez, Riselle Iris Leong, Li Mei Feng, Jin Ye Li, Ren Ai Chen, and Mark Anthony Liban.

Eucon also named 12th grader Lin Zi Chen as its most outstanding awardee during the ceremonies and bestowed Chun Chun Zhang the best in mathematics award.

Eucon also acknowledged the PGFC (primary grade forensic competition) and Math Court winners including gold medalist Joanah Victoria Jimenez, silver medalist Allia Raine Pillarina, and fourth placer, Joy Esther Yan.

The commencement exercises was keynoted by Dr. Yoh Shirato, an adjunct faculty of Eucon. Shirato encouraged the graduates to be faithful in their studies as it is the aim of Eucon Education to put their heart in God's ways.

Eucon also saw six students graduate with three of them accepted at Pensacola Christian College, the maker of the A Beka Curriculum in Florida.

Eucon, a TRACS accredited institution, offers Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education and Bachelor of Arts in Bible, and intensive ESL Program. Registration is ongoing and those interested may call 234-3203/7.

Bar association donates $7.5K to MLSC

The CNMI Bar Association on Friday presented the Micronesian Legal Services Corp. with a donation in the amount of $7,530. Beginning in 2008, when former Bar president Maya B. Kara started the tradition, the Bar Association has made a substantial annual donation to the MLSC in order to support the provision of much needed indigent legal services here in the CNMI.

Bar president Sean E. Frink stated that: The CNMI Bar Association very much appreciates the valuable service that the attorneys and staff at MLSC provide to our community. While almost all of the members of the private Bar voluntarily provide *pro bono* (for free) legal services to deserving members of our community, we realize that there is a much greater need out there than we can possibly provide and that the work that MLSC does plays a large and valuable role in our community. The indigent require access to free legal advice so that they can have meaningful access to the justice system. Without justice for the indigent how can our country's promise of "Justice for all" be upheld? Justice for all is something that we all believe in but our society has fallen woefully short in actually delivering the services necessary to make this promise a reality. This check represents a small token of the Bar membership's appreciation for what the people at MLSC do every day. Thank you MLSC, what you do is very much appreciated." ***(PR)***

Delta presentation on Monday

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is coordinating with the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and Marianas Visitors Authority to host a Delta Air Lines luncheon presentation at the Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club on Monday, June 25, 2012.

The presentation is titled "Momentum" and the speakers are Delta Air Line's Jeff Bernier, Asia-Pacific managing director, and Steven Crowdey, general manager for Delta for Philippines, Micronesia and Australia.

Delta representatives will be handing out free travel vouchers and other items to all attendees. Make reservations to confirm your attendance by registering with Janice Tenorio, SCC coordinator/planner at 233-7150, or by email at coordinator@saipanchamber.com.

The presentation is from 11:30am to 1pm (lunch at 11:30am followed by briefing at 12pm. Cost is $15 with lunch. ***(PR)***

Recent NMC graduate awarded two scholarships

Northern Marianas College recent graduate Louie Nigh has been awarded two prestigious scholarships to attend Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

Nigh

Scholarships were extended to him because of his nearly perfect grade point average and his excellent SAT scores, in which he received 100 percent in Math.

Having been a member of the national Phi Theta Kappa honor society, he received a generous award for his high GPA.

He also received a National Science Foundation award, a prestigious award which pays part of his tuition and allows him to spend the summer of 2013 doing research in biochemistry with a professor at the college.

Upon completion of his research, he will present his findings to the college. The 17-year-old Nigh will begin his studies at Juniata as a junior.

Juniata College is a small college of about 1,500 students and is well-known for the success of its students.

Ninety-five percent of graduates wanting to go on to medical schools are accepted into the schools of their choices. Its law school has an almost 100 percent admission rate into PhD programs.

It is also rated highly by many organizations. *US News and World Report* ranks it 81st among 3,800 colleges, and Forbes rates it as number 143. It is also ranked No. 1 in Loren Pope's "Colleges that Change Lives." With these and other scholarships he has received, the cost of Nigh's tuition and room and board are nearly 100 percent paid until graduation.

Nigh expects to go on to medical school and then to study neurosurgery. His parents give credit to NMC for making it possible for Nigh to begin accomplishing his goals at such a young age. According to his father, Richard, owner of Affordable Enterprises, the administration showed a high level of professionalism and took into account Nigh's potential. ***(PR)***

Acfalle sentenced to 100 months in prison

District Court of Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood sentenced 39-year-old James D. Acfalle to eight years and four months in prison for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine or "ice."

Acfalle was given credit for time served and five years of supervised release upon his release from prison.

Acfalle, along with defendant Roland Nauta, were charged with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. The ice was sent through the U.S. Postal Service.

Dogs from Guam Customs and Quarantine alerted on a package sent to Nauta through the U.S. Postal Service. Roland Nauta, age 39, was sentenced on June 7, 2012 to 157 months (13 years and one month) imprisonment with credit for time served and five years supervised release, for the offenses of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and using, carrying, or possessing a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

Assistant United States Attorney Clyde Lemons prosecuted the case. The investigation was conducted by Guam Customs and Quarantine, U.S. Postal Service Inspectors, DEA, Superior Court of Guam Probation Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 148

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The military's power grab threatens to derail Egypt's transition to democracy

Egyptians are expected to learn the results of their first-ever democratic presidential contest Thursday, but what should have been a watershed moment in that nation has instead turned into a sour reminder of how difficult it will be to overcome an authoritarian past. Before voting was completed, the nation's generals staged what amounted to a military coup by announcing they, not the new president, would control the prime minister, parliament, the national budget and matters of war and peace—all without civilian oversight or accountability.

The question now is not whether the nation will transition from decades of Hosni Mubarak's strongman rule to a secular or Islamic government but whether it will meet one of the most basic qualifications for democratic governance: the principle that the military answers to civilians, not the other way around. No matter who is declared the winner of the presidential race, the Egyptian people must reject the military's action, and the United States and other members of the international community must do everything possible to support them.

The decree by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces and its announcement that it would name a panel to draft a new constitution enshrining its new powers in law effectively reduced the office of Egypt's president to a rubber stamp for whatever the military decides. The decree followed a decision last week by Egypt's highest court, which is dominated by Mubarak appointees, to disband the Brotherhood-led parliament on the grounds that a third of the members of its lower house had been elected unlawfully. The parliament was supposed to take the lead in drafting a new constitution, but on Monday the army blocked lawmakers from entering the building where the legislature meets.

Egyptians who had seen the elections as a crucial step toward democratic self-rule accused the military of hijacking the process in order to maintain its iron grip on power. On Monday, the army seemed to soften its rhetoric in an effort to win over supporters of presidential candidate Ahmed Shafiq and others who opposed the ouster of Mr. Mubarak. Mr. Shafiq has presented himself as someone who could bring stability to the country and provide an alternative to a government dominated by Islamists like the Brotherhood, even if that meant bringing back some elements of the old police state.

It's unlikely that's what the demonstrators in Cairo's Tahrir Square had in mind last year when they gathered in the thousands to protest Mr. Mubarak's 30-year rule, and it's unlikely that a majority of Egyptians today are willing to settle for a situation in which nothing has changed except for a new face on the old regime. Many now believe the military never had any intention of instituting serious political reform or submitting to the authority of an elected civilian government. As a result, Egypt could find itself engulfed in another wave of popular protests in which liberal and secular groups join the Muslim Brotherhood in protesting the military's usurpation of power. But unlike the protests that unseated Mr. Mubarak, the demonstrations this time could put the army squarely against the citizens it is pledged to protect.

The U.S. has proceeded cautiously up to now in its response to Egypt's move toward democracy, largely out of concern that

See EGYPT on Next Page

Roots of Egypt's fight for power

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Last month, while visiting Egypt, I did a fascinating interview with a former Muslim Brotherhood leader named Mohammed Habib, who quit the group because its leaders had made dirty deals with Egyptian generals in the past.

At present, the Brothers and the generals are at loggerheads. The generals are trying to muddy the results of last weekend's presidential runoff, in which the Brotherhood's candidate, Mohammed Morsi, appeared to have beaten the military's man, Ahmed Shafik. And last week, the military dismissed the elected parliament in which the Brotherhood controlled nearly half the seats.

But Habib's words help explain the roots of the power struggle between the Brotherhood and the generals _ a struggle that has hijacked the revolution. They also offer some clues about how U.S. officials should respond.

A grandfatherly, white-bearded geology professor, Habib was the senior deputy to the secretive organization's supreme guide from 2004-09. We spoke in his comfortable living room in a brand-new, upscale apartment complex in a Cairo suburb.

Like many Brothers, Habib spent more than six years in prison at a time when the organization was banned under the regime of former president Hosni Mubarak. Yet, in a strange paradox, the Brotherhood had constant contacts with the Egyptian military and intelligence agencies.

"The regime's strategy," said Habib, "was to put the issue of the Ikwan (Brotherhood) in the hands of state security agencies." The regime would alternately arrest members, then let them run for parliament while quashing secular opposition groups. That fed Mubarak's narrative that democracy would lead to theocracy.

Regime strategy ensured a Brotherhood leadership that was secretive and authoritarian, subservient to a supreme guide, Mohammed Badie. "There was a loss of strategy or vision and an extreme concentration of power in the center," Habib said.

When the revolution erupted, Badie's response was to forbid the group to take part. (Around 2,500 young members defied him and went to Tahrir Square.) Even after Badie gave his members a green light to participate, he sent Morsi and another Brotherhood leader to meet secretly with the regime's intelligence chief, Omar Suleiman.

"I begged them not to do it," Habib said. "I said it would be a cause of shame to the organization, since Suleiman (wanted) to split the unity of the revolutionary forces." But Badie authorized the meeting and ordered Brotherhood members to leave the square (young Brothers refused to go). That act impelled Habib to quit the organization.

Brotherhood leaders continued to make secret deals with the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) and to betray revolutionary activists; they refused to go to their aid on several notorious occasions when peaceful demonstrators were killed.

"It was natural that the SCAF would have an understanding with Brotherhood leaders," Habib said. "They had the same (authoritarian) culture and structure. The SCAF wanted to direct the revolutionary forces and managed to con the entire Islamic bloc." The SCAF "couldn't con the young people," he added, "but did manage to . . . split their ranks."

Habib believes the candidates of the Brotherhood's front party did well in parliamentary elections because Egyptians saw them as a clean face of the revolution. They could have built a broad political coalition and consolidated their popular support. Instead, they rode roughshod over other parliamentary blocs and broke their pledge not to run a candidate for president. "All of a sudden," Habib said, "the public was surprised that ... they wanted to jump to every position."

Moreover, the conservative Brotherhood hierarchy chose a candidate—Morsi—who drafted the Brotherhood's first political platform in 2007 that proposed neither a woman nor a Christian could be president; it also called for a council of Islamic scholars to vet legislation.

The document caused an uproar and was dumped. But it still appears to reflect the leadership's thinking, which constantly emphasizes sharia law but shows scant understanding of democracy—or minority rights.

"They (the leaders) failed to understand history," Habib said. "You cannot hold all power in one hand. This would be a danger to the Brotherhood itself, and to Egypt."

The military, which at first accepted the Brotherhood victory in parliament, came to see it as a threat, leading to the current confrontation. This puts U.S. officials—and Egypt's pro-democracy forces—in a difficult bind.

No one wants a return to the old Egyptian order of corruption and repression, with Shafik replacing Mubarak (reports of whose death appear manipulated and premature.)

So members of Congress are already calling to cut off aid to Egypt's military. But the Muslim Brotherhood has displayed a disdain for democracy that is equally disturbing, equating a parliamentary win with a license to control every institution. Its current call, under duress, to revive a coalition of democratic forces, is unconvincing.

Washington should make clear that Western aid (which Egypt desperately needs) will be contingent on respect for the rights of Egyptians from all parties, meaning SCAF and Brotherhood alike (or any others). In recent months, as Habib describes, the two have behaved like undemocratic twins.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Trees and plants

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Ex-PCV William Granert in the Philippines was my colleague in promoting watershed soil and water conservation in the Philippines' NEDA Region VI shortly before Marcos' rule ended, and housewife Cory Aquino ascended the steps of the Malacañang Palace, (home to fashionable and always coiffed Imelda Marcos' inventory of boutique shoes).

Bill regaled trainees of the Johnny Appleseed story. Imaginary French Elzeard Bouffier's planting of trees made it to film in the mid-80s; *NY Times* journalist Jim Robbins wrote of real life David Milarch of Michigan, who made it his life's mission to plant hardy trees for a threatened planet and its humanity.

We went through Singapura in '77 when the city transformed its neighborhoods into gardens of Eden. The rationale was simple. To conserve fuel, the city cut down on carbon emissions by massively planting trees to absorb the carbon, supply oxygen, and keep the city's temperature low. It worked. Jahore across the channel in Malaysia reportedly has temperatures a few degrees higher than that of the City of the Tiger.

Singapore's efforts were corporate and communal. A large nursery was seen on one's way to Changi Airport, built by the government that insured a continual supply of arbor. The era of potted plants and moveable nursery trees began. I witnessed an old raintree carefully transported from a park to a forest location; all told, the venerable tree was worth 10 ordinary house aircon units!

"When is the best time to plant a tree? Twenty years ago. The second time. Yesterday."

It has now become obvious that we can no longer afford to consign the planting of trees to an annual event, or even a monthly routine. This MINA task requires a systemic approach as well as one that engages an individual's missionary zeal on a 24/7 basis. Saipan has all the water and nutrients it needs to keep it verdant year round. And we do not mean, haphazard *tangan-tangan* shrubs!

A building is under construction under my 11th floor nose. It stands between my dorm and the tree-lined front avenue. Yesterday, men and women descended on the grassy turf and started digging around the trees. Then a crane and a truck showed up, trees got pulled out, roots were properly wrapped, and on the trees were on their way to either a nursery, or some location where they will be watered to sprout new roots.

Dong Bei (northeast) is extremely cold half of the year, and so it is a delight to see the bloom of spring. It comes with much communal assistance. The building steps are graced with hundreds of flowering potted plants, and the bridges have planter railings intentionally designed to hold plants. Potted yellow carnations and morning glories, cherries and lavenders are not uncommon.

Classrooms look drab, almost a caricature of Gulags in Siberia. The teachers are high tech, all right. Some do presentations in PowerPoint with the front row at attention, but alas, the 15 back rows of the darkened room either eating or sleeping.

Oral English is an elective and not usually taken seriously except it is required for graduation. Until two years ago, listening comprehension was not in the standardized test, so students took the course for granted.

Two graduating students still needed Oral English this term but are on the last semester; now interning on the job they located before departing academe. These two students sent their friends to attend my class, thinking perhaps, "all Chinese look alike" to foreigners.

I am a shutterbug. I take photos of each student so I can put Chinese names to faces rather than require everyone to acquire English names. The two impostors broke down on the day they came on false pretenses and confessed that they were trying to do their friends a favor, but were sorry to commit a wrong. Of course, if I had not taken the picture, they probably would have gotten away with it!

We tell this story to indicate that our Oral English is more than just vocalizing English on proper syntax and standard pronunciation. We facilitate students to be reflective, invite them to be self-conscious and urge them to create their own destinies, doing so in the context of an enlightened humanity they can belong to, a sustainable secular earth they can live in, and a celebrative affirmation the "life is never the way we want it."

In a culture where fate and destiny is allowed to coast on genealogical determinism and happenstance of chance, with minimal individual choice save for a select minority, we ask our students a bit more than they are used to. They would rather just pass, or fail, a standard test. Instead, they are prodded to describe their sense impressions, express what they feel, articulate what they think, and plan for their future. Then, append the appropriate terms to their experience. They also decide to act.

For now, they cut the lower half of plastic soft drink bottles, fill them with water, and float a South African spider plant to add oxygen to our room's air supply in this blighted carbon-heavy coal province. The floating plants now line the windows in my class.

I understand some of the students have taken the habit to their dorms. That, and other disciplines of self-consciousness! We are grateful for nursery trees and potted plants.

Deconstructing China-in-Africa

By DANTE PARADISO
MCT

The People's Republic of China's unprecedented worldwide economic expansion in the years after its World Trade Organization accession created abundant opportunities for U.S.-China coordination, cooperation or collaboration on matters peripheral to bilateral relations, such as trilateral regional engagement outside the Asia-Pacific.

The thrust of U.S. policy over that span has been to encourage China to participate fully, not selectively, in the response to common international challenges and in the (re)enforcement of international norms. In African affairs, however, China has been reluctant to synchronize policy.

Next month, Chinese and African leaders will convene in Beijing for the fifth iteration of the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), a triennial ministerial that will again draw the attention of those Western cognoscenti who have monitored the intensification of Sino-African ties over the last dozen years.

In the press and academia, Chinese activities in Africa have been catalogued, and their effects on African practices in trade, development and human rights analyzed, most often in normative terms, in order to compare and contrast the efficacy of Chinese and Western engagement with Africa.

Such analysis often overlooks this: Africans will determine the terms on which they receive China in Africa.

The more interesting question for Washington policymakers, and the question implicit in the preoccupation with the China-Africa dynamic, is what China's relations with African states and regional institutions may tell us more broadly about Chinese foreign policy in emerging regions. Toward that end, China's recent engagement in Africa is characterized by incrementalism, pragmatism and exceptionalism.

Incrementalism. The explosive growth in China-Africa commerce is fueled by the extractive industries, producing nearly balanced trade. China seeks to correct imbalances in other areas through concessional loans, funding for joint ventures and foreign direct investment. Its own experience with special economic zones (SEZs) informed its decision to establish six SEZs with African partners.

It also created a multibillion dollar fund to incentivize investment by Chinese firms in Africa. This state-supported, incremental approach—which is neither slow nor small—applies across all sectors. Likewise, China's military ties in Africa advance through accretive contributions to peacekeeping operations, increased military training and the equipping of foreign militaries. It's anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden provide a pilot for future blue water naval capabilities.

Pragmatism. Prior to 2001, China's relations with African states were long characterized by ideological solidarity and cultural exchange. As China's economic growth overseas accelerated, it strengthened ties with governments across the ideological spectrum, confident that it can navigate political transitions when necessary.

In Sudan, China for years backed a unified state, but recognized South Sudan on its establishment and sought to strengthen ties with the new nation even after conflict reignited between north and south.

Exceptionalism. In African affairs, China works far more in parallel with than within the current architecture of the international system and distances itself from policies that are too closely identified with Western interests.

China's approach stands out in every important aspect: design, scope and impact. FOCAC is distinguishable from other international initiatives because it covers comprehensively political, economic and social ties and does not include traditional institutional partners, such as the World Bank.

China's loans, tariff reductions, debt forgiveness and SEZs are largely outside frameworks established by the international financial institutions.

These are not attempts to position China within the international system, but alongside it.

Similarly, Chinese diplomatic initiatives are often done without prior coordination with other international stakeholders. China selectively works with multilateral institutions, on its terms.

China opted for exceptionalism despite rarely being in direct economic competition with the West, save in certain cases in the extractive industries. This suggests that China is not content to be a stakeholder in the current world order: it actively seeks a different world order.

For Washington policymakers, "China-Africa" analysis should be viewed primarily as a tool to better understand China, not Africa states. At the next FOCAC, China will refine and amplify its commitments to Africa. Later in the year, China's leadership succession will provide greater insight into its global intentions. However, the structure of China's approach to Africa is unlikely to change.

The implications for U.S. policy are several.

First, China's incremental approach tips the emphasis and direction of Chinese policy in emerging regions. The United States should be particularly sensitive to any significant increase in alternative currency swap arrangements with African states, or other monetary moves, that undermine the reserve currency status of the U.S. dollar. Basing agreements between China and African states might indicate the nature of China's future force posture.

Second, its pragmatism means that outcomes are not preordained. Understanding how China assesses and prioritizes its interests will provide the best indication of the direction of Chinese policy in emerging regions.

Finally, the emphasis in discussion on matters peripheral to the U.S.-China bilateral relationship may have to shift from cooperation to the management of friction. Two independent approaches to regional affairs do not necessarily equate to conflict or competition, but risks increase where norms cannot be reconciled and systems are closed to each other.

Dante Paradiso is a career Foreign Service Officer with extensive service in Africa and elsewhere. The views expressed are the author's own and not necessarily those of the U.S. government or the U.S. Department of State.

EGYPT

From Page 10

it not be seen as interfering with the process by which the Egyptian people determine their own future. Egyptians carried out their revolution, and they must be the ones who make it work. At the same time, the U.S. has important interests in the success of a stable, democratic Egypt, whatever party eventually takes power, and it must make clear to Egypt's military leaders that they cannot expect to continue receiving billions of dollars in aid if they defy their people's demands for reform. An unstable, undemocratic Egypt with a military that can remain in power only through the use of force is in no one's interest. Such a situation would be a serious liability for the U.S. as well as its partners in the region, and American officials need to drive that message home to the generals in no uncertain terms.

(C)2012 THE BALTIMORE SUN

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

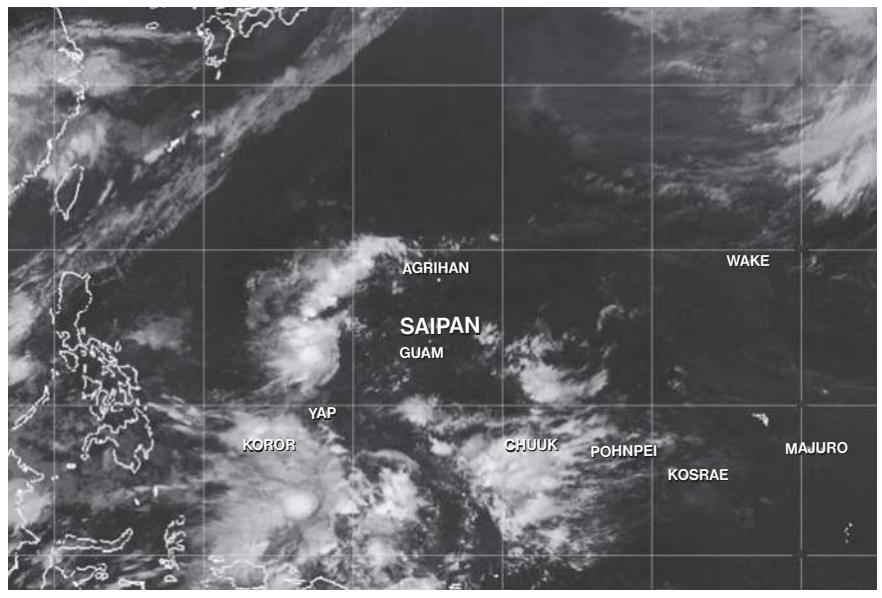
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼74
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲60	▼56
Beijing	Cloudy	▲90	▼70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼83
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼54
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲55	▼45
Miami	Showers	▲83	▼79
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼66
Osaka	Cloudy	▲79	▼69
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲71	▼52
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼68
Rome	Sunny	▲92	▼66
Salem	Showers	▲64	▼50
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼69
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲77	▼67
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough curves northwest from southeast of Yap at EQ146N to northwest of Guam at 18N140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen west of Guam within 225 miles of a line from 18N141E to 12N140E. Scattered showers are also found southeast of Yap within 100 miles of 4N145E. Low-level convergence near the trough is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just south of Koror south of a line from 5N130E to 8N137E to 5N142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are also seen southeast of Guam and near Chuuk within 175 miles of a line from 11N146E to 3N154. An upper-level low centered north of Pohnpei at 14N158E is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Pohnpei between 8N and 12N from 153E to 161E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:23 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
10:00 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:15 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:41 AM	9:32 PM
Sunday	9:34 AM	10:13 PM
Monday	10:26 AM	10:55 PM
Tuesday	11:19 AM	11:37 PM
Wednesday	12:14 PM	

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 13, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via ROP	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				**GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
				UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM				
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
				OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360
Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building).
Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sundays at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Thursdays at 6:30pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Living Hope Church of the Nazarene
Isa Drive, I-Denni Hill across from Ponderosa Heights
Bible Studies for all ages: Sunday at 10:00 am
Worship: Sunday at 11:00 am
Pastor Dave Bucher, 256-1142

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jun. 23, 2003

CUC board wants DEQ violations explained
Seeking for explanation themselves, members of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors demanded that the CUC management give them a detailed presentation about the reported numerous violations of the utility firm on water regulations. This even as CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta assured the board during a meeting last week that her office has been addressing the Division of Environmental Quality's concerns over CUC's water compliance. "We've been going about it point by point. Basically, it's a result of a procedural lapse and DEQ is saying that information was not provided in a timely manner," said Babauta.

Anatahan erupts during EMO, USGS visit
Anatahan's volcano continued to display fury, erupting with a loud bang while a government team was conducting an overflight on the island last week, the Emergency Management Office said yesterday. Juan Takai Camacho, the EMO's geophysical seismic technician, said a joint team from his agency and the U.S. Geological Service was flying over Anatahan Monday when the loud explosion was heard. The eruption did not bungle the mission, and no casualty was reported. "I was monitoring the signal," said Camacho, when he heard the bang.

Jun. 23, 2004

Over 1K WWII items featured at NMI Museum
Exhibit curator Noel B. Quitugua shows off the 1,005 artifacts, pictures, models, and documents of life before, during, and after World War II on the Northern Marianas at the CNMI Museum of History and Culture. (Photo by Shan Seman) About 1,005 artifacts, pictures, models, and documents of life before, during, and after World War II on the Northern Marianas are currently on display at the CNMI Museum of History and Culture as part of commemorations for the 60th anniversary of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian. According to exhibit curator Noel B. Quitugua, the exhibit aims to present the transition from the Japanese Administration to the American Administration. "This exhibit features items showing the ways of life in the CNMI during the prosperous years under the Japanese, the war, the aftermath of the war, the camps that were created, all the way to the signing of the Covenant," he said.

Court denies land claim that was filed 30 years late
The CNMI Supreme Court affirmed a lower court decision denying the claim of a woman over two parcels of land in Dandan, saying the filing of the claim was 30 years late. The High Court effectively affirmed the government's ownership of the lots, which have been administered by the Marianas Public Lands Authority and its predecessor agencies. The court rendered the decision in an appeal filed by Magdalena A. Flores on the trial court's judgment in favor of the CNMI government and MPLA's predecessor, the Division of Public Lands.

Jun. 23, 2005

Lizama declines to force Govendo's recusal
Superior Court judge Juan T. Lizama refrained from compelling fellow judge Kenneth Govendo to recuse himself from handling the lawsuit filed by former Marianas Public Lands Authority commissioner Henry Hofschneider against the MPLA and its chair, Ana Demapan-Castro. Lizama said it is up to Govendo to decide whether or not he would recuse himself from the case, after the MPLA accused the latter of bias against it. Lizama said his court did not find any legal basis for Govendo to recuse himself from the case.

GOP tandem declines gubernatorial forum
Gov. Juan N. Babauta has declined to attend a forum for gubernatorial candidates today that is sponsored by the CNMI Bar Association "due to a prior engagement." The forum will take place during the association's general membership meeting at noon at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. In a letter to association president Edward Manibusan yesterday, Babauta said that both he and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente are set to attend the general membership meeting of the Marianas Visitors Authority at the same time today at Dai-Ichi Hotel Saipan Beach. "I regret to inform you that the Lt. Governor and I will not be able to attend due to a prior engagement. We are scheduled to attend the MVA bi-annual general membership meeting to brief the members on details of the new agreements with Northwest Airlines to replace Japan Airlines," he said.

Maharlika

Guam senator reminds Pinoy workers of their value

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Visiting Guam Sen. Sam Mabini, left, gestures while officer-in-charge Jose Sto. Domingo of the Philippine Consulate General listens during a meeting with Filipino community leaders at the Filipino Workers Resource Center in Susupe Thursday night.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Guam senator reminded members of the Filipino community in the CNMI about their value as part of the Commonwealth's workforce, saying that their "biggest asset" is their own contribution to the economic development and success of the islands.

Sen. Sam Mabini reiterated how the Filipino workers in the Commonwealth serve as the "backbone" of the island economy during a meeting hosted by the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan at the Filipino Workers Resource Center on Thursday night.

"Remember that that's the power you have. You are part of the future economic development of the islands. Keep that in mind and remind others about that," Mabini addressed some 60 Filipino leaders from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Mabini is on island along with other lawmakers and dignitaries from neighboring Pacific islands for the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures' 31st General Assembly, which seeks to foster regional cooperation on a host of issues such as tourism, airlines, environmental protection, and economic development.

Born and raised in Guam, Mabini said that her advocacy for the plight of Filipino workers not only in Guam and the CNMI but throughout the world stems from her own lineage, recounting her family's story to her audience.

"I cannot turn my back away from things I believe I can make a difference," said Mabini as she revealed that she was born to a mother who worked as a seamstress and her father who was a carpenter and was among those recruited in the '60s to rebuild Guam following the war.

"My parents are like many of you," she said. "Their life experience is different only because they're in Guam. But many of my relatives who just arrived in Guam, they're also hoping for green card."

According to Mabini, Filipinos throughout the world become a "great asset" in the labor force of countries where they are employed because of qualities such as fluency in the English language, intelligence, hard work and perseverance, and their audacity to take on jobs that others wouldn't do.

"That's why Filipinos are the No. 1 export of the Philippines," she said.

While there are similarities between the situation of Filipino workers in Guam and the Northern Marianas, Mabini also noted the differences, affirming that more Filipinos in Guam are already permanent residents or U.S. citizens by now and that the Filipinos in the CNMI lead "hard" and "confusing" lives as a result of Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 which placed CNMI immigration under federal control.

Mabini said she can help create "bridges" or "connections" among personalities who are considered advocates or those who support Filipino workers, citing her role on getting Guam Consul General Bayani Mangibin introduced to CNMI Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) who visited Guam recently.

Mabini, who is a board member of the Filipino Community of Guam, a network of 70 Filipino organizations, vowed to look into developing a relationship between the Filipino communities of the two jurisdictions.

With the impending closure of the Saipan Consulate, Mabini also pledged any assistance so that the Guam Consulate can better reach out to the Filipino community in the CNMI as it takes over the consular responsibilities.

Mabini, who volunteers hosting Guam's Megamixx 101.9FM *Damdaming Pinoy* show, disclosed her offer to accommodate Mangibin in the radio show to address the Filipinos in the Commonwealth. Although the radio show has better quality airing on Rota, Mabini said the community can access the show through the Internet via www.justin.tv.

» Mabini says Filipino workers are backbone of CNMI economy

Quoting Philippine Ambassador to the U.S., Mabini called on all Filipinos in the CNMI to "reach excellence in contributing toward economic development" by being the best that they can be and become more invaluable to the islands.

"Be optimistic, pray, and keep your eyes and ears open," she added.

While Thursday's attendees expressed different priorities and concerns to Mabini, all were in unison to recognize the visiting Guam senator for taking time to meet with her kababayans on Saipan, with a few from Tinian and Rota.

Rene Reyes, founding president of Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. Or MAHAL, sought help from the Guam lawmaker in getting someone to heed the plea for improved status especially for long-term workers in the Northern Marianas.

For his part, Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez said Mabini's message sends out hope and empowerment to Filipino workers whose status in the Commonwealth remains clouded with uncertainty. He asked the senator to convey to Guam Consul General Mangibin his request to give priority to the workers of the CNMI.

Representing the Saipan Lions Club, Ladyvir Canape concurred with Mabini in saying that the Filipinos in the Commonwealth and in Guam will have a more solid voice when they unite and come together as one.

United Filipino Organization president Bong Malasarte, meanwhile, echoed Mabini's positive message and called on the Filipino community to look forward and continue their hard work despite all uncertainties facing foreign workers in general.

Consulate, POLO announces training courses for 3rd Qtr 2012

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General, through the Philippine Overseas Labor Office, will be offering basic and advanced training courses to Filipino workers who are interested to learn new or improve their acquired skills.

These free training courses are scheduled for the 3rd Quarter of 2012 and will be conducted at the Filipino Workers Resource Center at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Instructor Eduardo "Edong" Elenzano will be conducting the Basic Fruit Carving course, which will be held from July 7 to 28 every Saturday from 1pm to 5pm.

For advanced training program, the Consulate announced that it will have three courses: Basic Computer Operations II, Basic Mandarin II, and Advanced Nihongo.

Basic Computer Operations II will only be offered to graduates of BCO I. Classes will be held on four Saturdays from July 7 to 28, from 8:30am to 12:30pm under the instruction of Jousel Regilme.

Basic Mandarin II, which will be taught by Reynaldo Garcia, will be offered to Basic Mandarin graduates only and will take place on five Sundays from July 1 to 29 from 1pm to 5pm.

Meanwhile, Basic Nihongo graduates can brush up their new language skill with the Advanced Nihongo course which will be conducted by Leopoldo O. Rodriguez, Jr. for five Sundays from July 1 to 29, 1pm to 5pm.

Interested individuals are required to bring their CW receipt or receiving copy of CW application from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, valid passport, and one I.D. picture to sign up for any of the courses.

For more information, visit the POLO office or call 235-3411.

UFO backs Pinay Liberation Queen candidate

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization has endorsed the only 2012 Liberation Queen candidate who has Filipino roots.

Maria Angelica Malasarte of Susupe village is one of the five young ladies vying for the crown for the money-based pageant which highlights the biggest community event this year.

The Liberation Queen candidates were formally introduced to the public in a pinning ceremony held at the Saipan Mayor's Office on June 8.

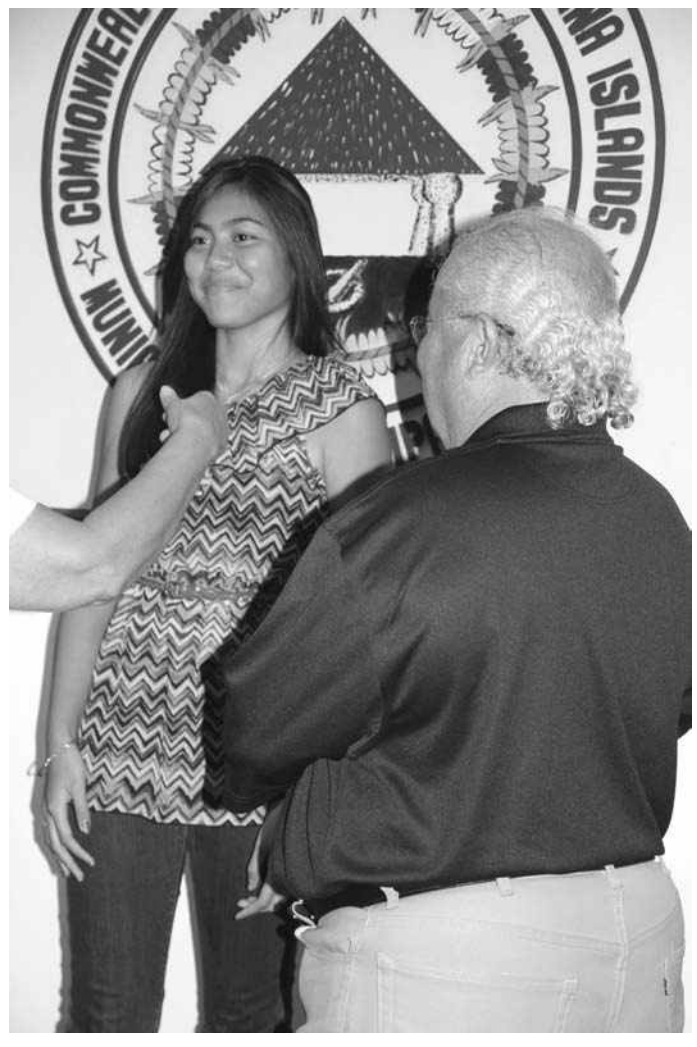
Malasarte, 15, is the eldest of four children of Malou and Bong Malasarte, who is the current president of the umbrella organization of some 30 Filipino groups in the CNMI.

The younger Malasarte is an incoming junior at the Saipan Southern High School was crowned the first ever winner for Ms. Pusong Pinoy, UFO's Valentine beauty pageant, held at the Civic Center Beach Park in Susupe last February 12.

UFO secretary Annamae Adaza confirmed yesterday the group's backing for Malasarte who exemplifies the qualities of a young Filipino lady.

"Angelica will be representing the Filipino community in the annual Liberation Queen pageant so it's only fitting that our organization and all Filipinos in the Commonwealth support her," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Adaza said UFO members are working hard to sell Malasarte's tickets. All Liberation Queen hopefuls were initially given 100 booklets to sell, followed by another 100 booklets just last week. The candidate with the most number of tickets sold will be hailed winner. Tickets cost $1 each or $5 per booklet containing six tickets.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Maria Angelica Malasarte receives her 2012 Liberation Queen sash during the pinning ceremony for five young candidates of this year's event, held at the Saipan Mayor's Office last June 8.

"While we're selling tickets to Filipinos in general, we also have plans to approach Filipino-owned companies on island and other well-to-do Filipinos for their assistance. Let us do what we can to support Angelica in her quest for the Liberation Queen crown," said Adaza.

Adaza noted that some UFO members will have the tickets for sale after the Filipino mass at the Mount Carmel Cathedral on Sunday.

The counting of tickets sold by all candidates will be done on June 30, with the coronation night to be held at the Liberation Festival grounds at the Garapan Fishing Base on July 2 at 7pm.

To buy tickets or for more information, call 287-5525 or 483-5237.

Aquino warned against putting Arroyo in regular jail

By CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile on Thursday warned the Aquino government against mistreating former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, noting that she has not yet been convicted in the electoral sabotage case filed against her.

Enrile

"No matter how bad they think about her, she is presumed innocent until she is really convicted," Enrile said in an interview with dwIZ radio.

Nor is Enrile amenable to suggestions that Arroyo, who is now a Pampanga congresswoman, be transferred from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center suite in Quezon City where she is being detained to a regular jail while she is on trial.

Placing Arroyo in the company of common criminals would not sit well with the international community, considering that she is a former president, he said.

"What if she dies in jail? How would it look like to the rest of the world when you put a former president in jail together with (common criminals)?" he said.

The Senate President said he had received information that the former President remains in "critical" condition, apparently because of a lingering problem with her cervical spine.

"My information is that she cannot swallow, she takes only liquid, and no doctor here wants to handle her," he said in Filipino.

"I think if something happens to her, that would be a big issue," he said.

Enrile reminded the administration of political upheavals in the past triggered by the death of a political figure.

He noted that the martyred opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr., the father of President Aquino, had been allowed to seek medical treatment abroad despite being convicted by a military court during the Marcos regime.

Enrile served as the defense minister of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos and was one of the key implementers of martial law. His defection along with then Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel Ramos triggered the first Edsa People Power Revolution in 1986.

"So long as it was (a) medical (case), we allowed prisoners to go to the hospital because it was a matter of life and death," he recalled.

In the case of Arroyo, Enrile pointed out that she remains an accused.

Dolphy's condition Thursday 'the best so far', says son

By JAMIE ELONA
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Comedy King Rodolfo "Dolphy" Vera Quizon's condition Thursday has been "the best so far" since he was admitted at the Makati Medical Center last week, one of his children, said Friday morning.

In a text message to INQUIRER.net around 8:30 a.m., Ronnie Quizon said that while there really wasn't any update on his father's health, "yesterday was so far the best day since he went to the hospital."

He said even the doctors told them that they could go home and take some rest after keeping a close watch on their father who remained at the hospital's intensive care unit.

"Pag gabi kasi, we let our father rest, and evry1 [everyone] tries to get some rest too," Ronnie said.

He said something only happens at night when there's an emergency, but added that "nothing" bad happened Thursday night.

"So to us, no news is good news at night," Dolphy's son said.

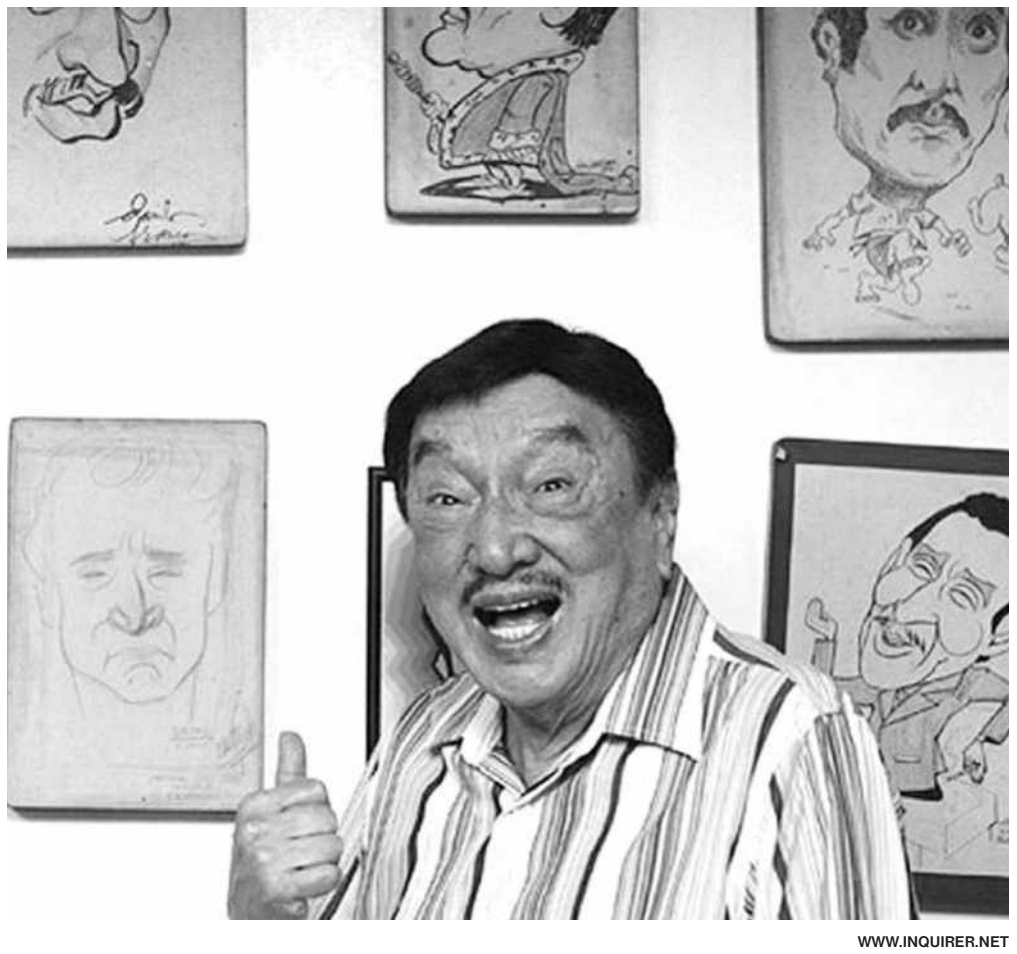
Actor-director Eric Quizon, Dolphy's other son and family-appointed spokesman, told reporters Thursday that Dolphy's vital signs improved Wednesday night until Thursday morning, prompting his doctors to give the "go" signal for a dialysis for the actor's failing kidneys.

"This will help my father by removing the excess bodily fluids in his kidneys. He also had a blood transfusion," Eric said.

He said, however, that Dolphy's platelets remained low and that there was hemorrhage or internal bleeding.

Nonetheless, they found a "glimmer of hope" after Dolphy opened his eyes and looked around his room, Eric said.

Eric said his father had been suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease for the last five years.


WWW.INQUIRER.NET
File photo of Philppine Comedy King Rodolfo "Dolphy" Vera Quizon.

Sy leads Forbes' list of 15 PH billionaires

The 40 richest people in the Philippines saw their wealth grow over $13 billion to $47.4 billion this year, thanks to a booming remittance-driven economy that outperformed most of the country's neighbors, according to the latest issue of Forbes Asia.

» Razon is biggest gainer this year

The increase in wealth produced 15 billionaires, up from 11 a year ago—a result of an ongoing consumer boom, a surge in tourism and outsourcing, a stock market that gained 17 percent in the past year, and economic growth of 6.4 percent in the last quarter, the magazine said.

Henry Sy, 87, remains the richest person in the Philippines with a net worth of $9.1 billion, up $1.9 billion from a year ago, according to Forbes.

But the most impressive was Enrique Razon Jr., this year's biggest gainer, as the 52-year old tycoon saw his wealth surge by $2 billion to $3.6 billion, catapulting him four ranks higher to become the country's third richest person.

Took over at 27

Razon became a billionaire last year with $1.6 billion in net worth and made his first fortune in ports, taking over the family business, International Container Terminal Services (ICTS), at age 27.

He turned ICTS into one of the largest port operators in Asia, before expanding into Europe, North America and the Middle East.

Forbes said that much of Razon's jump in wealth this year was from his stake in Bloomberry Resorts, which had a public offering this May.

Bloomberry plans to open a resort casino on Manila Bay in 2013 that Razon hopes will position the country as a gaming destination alongside Macau and Singapore.

Henry Sy retains the top spot on the list, with control of the country's biggest retail group, which includes SM Prime, the Philippines' largest mall developer, with 42 malls.

Lucio Tan

No. 2 on the list is Lucio Tan with $4.5 billion, up $1.7 billion from last year, the magazine said.

Known as the Philippines' tobacco king, the 78-year-old billionaire owns part of Phillip Morris Fortune Tobacco, which has an estimated 80-percent share of the cigarette market.

Other assets held by Tan include beer-maker Asia Brewery and Hong Kong-based Eton Properties. Tan also sold a 49-percent stake in the holding company of Philippine Airlines to San Miguel Corp. for a reported $500 million in April.

Gambling is an appealing sector for other billionaires in the country, Forbes said.

PH's only private casino

Andrew Tan's Alliance Global, which is partnered with Malaysia's Genting, has the country's only private casino in Manila, Resorts World, which opened in 2010.

Andrew Tan is ranked No. 6 on this year's list with a net worth of $2.3 billion, up from $2 billion previously.

The Sy family is also getting in on the gambling action with its own Manila Bay resort and casino, scheduled to open next year.

Overall, 34 out of the 37 returnees on the list grew richer.

Newcomers

Robert Coyiuto Jr., who owns part of the power transmission outfit National Grid Corp., saw his net worth surge from $400 million last year to $1.3 billion, making him the biggest gainer in percentage terms.

There are three newcomers to this year's list: Lucio and Susan Co, a husband and wife team who joins the ranks of billionaires, thanks to last September's IPO of their hypermarket chain, Puregold Price Club.

They make their debut at No. 13 on the list and are worth $1.2 billion.

Another debutant is 38-year-old civil engineer Michael Cosiquien, who took his building company Megawide Construction public last year. Cosiquien is at No. 39 with a net worth of $150 million.

This year's qualification for the list was $140 million compared with last year's threshold of $85 million.

The full list of the Philippines' 40 richest can be found in the July 2012 issue of Forbes Asia, which is available on newsstands now. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

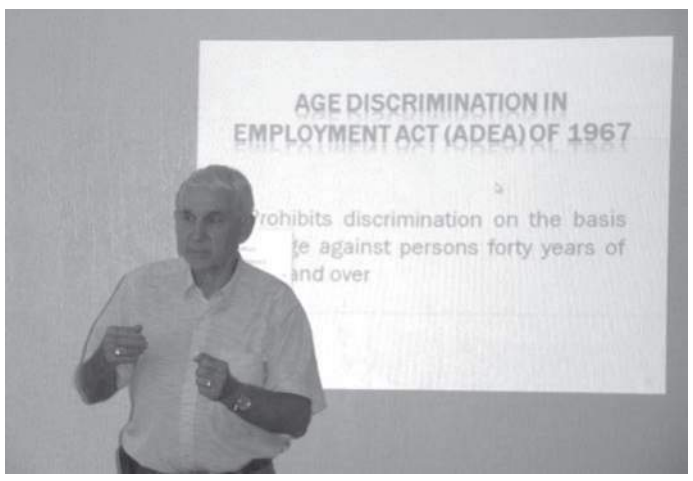
Samu't Sari

COURTESY CALL

The Tinian High School JLAB Leadership Team visited the Office of CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan in Washington, D.C. on Thursday June 21, 2012, prior to their event at George Mason University. A tour of the U.S. Capitol, led by Kilili's staff assistant, Matt Deleon Guerrero, followed after the team's visit to the office. From left to right, CSM (Ret) Richard Basa, Mrs. Bernie Basa, C/SFC Josue Cruz, C/CSM Samantha Wedding, C/CPT Veronica Borja, C/LTC Marquina Hofschneider and Sablan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WORKFORCE READINESS INITIATIVE


AGE DISCRIMINATION IN
EMPLOYMENT ACT (ADEA) OF 1967
rohibits discrimination on the basis
ge against persons forty years of
and over

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Office of Insular Affairs' Jeff Schorr makes encouraging remarks during the Society for Human Resource Management's Workforce Readiness Initiative that ended last June 2.

Tan Holdings' Malou Ernest handles the basic customer service instruction program of SHRM's Workforce Readiness Initiative.

Polly DLG Masga assists VickyMarie Espayos in preparing her resume.

Denise Montenegro of Hyatt Regency Saipan handled the restaurant services instruction of SHRM's Workforce Readiness Initiative.

Learning table-setting skills from Denise Montenegro, second from left, are, from left, Christine Tangcoy, Leilani Borja, Tito Francisco, and Christine Frncisco.

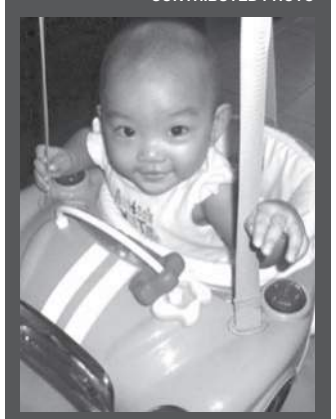
BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday Raymond Sablan! Thanks for always being a great husband, father, and our own hero! We love you always, enjoy your day daddy. A firefighter will always remain strong no matter the years that passed! With love, your three angels.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 7th birthday to Mikey O. Palacios who is celebrating his special day today. You are a special boy and we will always and forever love you. Shout out coming from Daddy, Mommy, MM, and Boboi.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 1st birthday to Anissa Faith! May your day be filled with blessings just as you've blessed mine. Greetings from Nina.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

At US hotels, Chinese treated to comforts of home

NEW YORK (AP)—Major hotel brands are bending over backward to cater to the needs of the world's most sought-after traveler: the Chinese tourist.

Now arriving on American shores in unprecedented numbers thanks to a streamlined visa process and a rising Chinese middle class, Chinese tourists are being treated to the comforts of home when they check in at the front desk. That means hot tea in their rooms, congee for breakfast and Mandarin-speaking hotel employees at their disposal.

Chinese "welcome programs" at reputable chains like Marriott and Hilton even address delicate cultural differences: No Chinese tour group should be placed on a floor containing the number four, which sounds like the word for death in Mandarin.

"They're very relieved, like finally somebody's doing these things that make sense," said Robert Armstrong, a sales manager who handles all bookings for incoming Chinese travelers at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York. "Finally somebody's catering to them."

More than a million Chinese visited the U.S. in 2011, contributing more than $5.7 billion to the U.S. economy. That's up 36 percent from 2010, according to the Department of Commerce. By 2016, that figure is expected to reach 2.6 million Chinese. In a striking departure from the traditional Chinese business traveler, a growing number of them are simply coming to America for fun—with lots of cash on hand. (The average Chinese visitor spends more than $6,000 per trip.)

And so hotels are openly competing to win the hearts of the Chinese, who generally travel in large groups and stick to a tight itinerary, often packing multiple cities into a two-week American tour. What they're looking for is a hotel that makes them feel at ease with their surroundings, said Roy Graff, a travel consultant who educates hotels in proper Chinese culture and hospitality.

That may take the form of slippers and a tea kettle in the hotel room or a Mandarin-speaking employee at the front desk—or all of the above.

"They drink tea. Eastern style, everything cold," explained Charlie Shao, president of Galaxy Tours, a New York City-based Chinese tour agency, who used to frequently request special amenities for his clients. "They don't walk inside the room with bare feet."

It's rare that Shao has to ask hotels for anything anymore. Marriott International, for example, now offers not one but several Chinese breakfasts, depending upon which region of China the traveler hails from: there are salted duck eggs and pickled vegetables for eastern Chinese, for example, and dim sum and sliced pig's liver for the southerners.

Major chains are also training employees to avoid cultural missteps that would offend a Chinese visitor. Superstition is a big one: Red is considered a lucky color, along with the number eight, which signifies wealth. The color white, meanwhile, is frowned upon, not to mention the cursed number four.

AP

In this Friday, June 15, 2012, a group of tourists from China take in the sights of the New York Stock Exchange and Federal Hall National Memorial. Major hotel brands are bending over backward to cater to the needs of the world's most sought-after traveler: the Chinese tourist.

Auditors: Spain bank bailout could cost up to $78B

MADRID (AP)—Spain's troubled banks could need as much as (EURO)62 billion ($78.6 billion) in new capital to protect themselves from economic shocks, according to independent auditors hired by the government to assess the country's struggling financial sector, officials said Thursday.

The Spanish government will use the auditors' report as the basis for their application for a bank bailout loan from the 17 countries that use the euro. With tensions rising over the future of the eurozone, Spain is expected to submit its specific request for outside assistance no later than Monday, said Jean-Claude Juncker, who chairs meetings of zone's finance ministers.

"We invited Spain to pursue this clear and ambitious strategy, which needs to be implemented swiftly and communicated early," Juncker said after Spanish Economy Minister Luis de Guindos presented the audit results to the ministers who are members of the so-called Eurogroup.

Deputy Bank of Spain Governor Fernando Restoy noted that this worst-case scenario cited by the auditors was far below the (EURO)100 billion ($126.7 billion) loan offered by the eurozone's finance ministers two weeks ago.

Spain's banking sector is struggling under toxic loans and assets from the collapse of the country's property market in 2008. Concerns that Spain's economy is so weak that it could not afford the cost of propping up its banks has sent its borrowing costs soaring to levels not seen since it joined the European single currency in 1999.

The worry is that Spain could soon find itself unable to finance its debts by itself and join Greece, Ireland and Portugal in seeking a rescue loan for not just the banks but the whole country.

The stakes are huge: Spain is the eurozone's fourth-largest economy and would seriously hit the bloc's finances should it need bailing out. The country is struggling through a recession with a 24.4 percent jobless rate. On top of this, government's main customers at its debt auctions are Spanish banks—the sector now being bailed out. In a sign of how reluctant the markets are to invest in Spain, the country had to pay sharply higher interest rates to raise (EURO)2.2 billion ($2.8 billion) in a bond auction Thursday.

The audits of Spain's lenders, carried out by consultancies Roland Berger and Oliver Wyman, covered 14 banking groups that account for 90 percent of the country's financial sector. The country will use the reports' findings to decide how big a bailout loan to ask for.

Restoy and Deputy Economy Minister Fernando Jimenez Latorre declined to outline individual banks' needs.

In the auditors' stress test for the worst-case economic scenario—a fall in gross domestic product of 6.5 percent over the period 2012-2014—most of the banks were deemed to be in a "comfortable" position, Restoy said.

Weak US job market weighing on broader economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—The sluggish job market is weighing on the U.S. economy three years after the Great Recession ended. And the signs suggest hiring may not strengthen any time soon.

A measure of the number of people applying for unemployment benefits over the past month has reached a six-month high, the government said Thursday. The increase suggests that layoffs are rising and June will be another tepid month for hiring.

Sales of previously occupied homes fell in May. And manufacturing activity in the Philadelphia region contracted for the second straight month in June.

The gloomy economic data echoed a more pessimistic outlook from the Federal Reserve issued Wednesday.

The reports also contributed to a sharp decline in stock prices. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 251 points to close at 12,574. The Standard & Poor's 500 index and the Nasdaq composite both ended the day down more than 2 percent.

"It appears the slow-growth expansion will be slower," said John Silvia, chief economist at Wells Fargo Securities, in a note to clients.

Thursday's raft of economic reports showed:

■ Applications for unemployment benefits dipped last week to 387,000, from an upwardly revised 389,000 the previous week, the Labor Department said. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, rose to 386,250. That is the highest level since December. When applications for unemployment benefits top 375,000, hiring generally remains too weak to rapidly lower the unemployment rate.

■ Home sales fell 1.5 percent in May from April to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.55 million, the National Association of Realtors said. Sales are up 9.6 percent from a year ago. That suggests that the housing market is slowly improving. But the annual sales rate is well below the 6 million that economists consider healthy.

■ The Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank said its index of regional manufacturing activity fell sharply to -16.6 from -5.8. That's the lowest level in nearly a year. A reading below zero indicates contraction. Measures of new orders and shipments also plummeted.

■ A gauge of future U.S. economic activity rose in May to its highest level in four years, one of the few positive signs Thursday. The Conference Board's index of leading economic indicators increased to 95.8. That's the highest level since June 2008, which was six months into the recession. Still, before the recession, the index routinely topped 100.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil near $79 amid global economic growth worries

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil traded near $79 a barrel Friday in Asia, rising slightly after signs of slowing global economic growth triggered a sharp plunge in the oil price this week. Benchmark oil for August delivery was up 51 cents to $78.71 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell $3.25 to settle at $78.20, the lowest since October, in New York on Thursday. In London, Brent crude for August delivery was up 69 cents at $89.92 per barrel.

Google stock split wins approval; CEO loses voice

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google shareholders gave CEO Larry Page what he wanted Thursday by approving an unconventional stock split meant to cement his authority, but he wasn't around to hail the victory. Page missed the Internet search leader's annual shareholders meeting because he has lost his voice, a previously undisclosed problem. Google didn't provide any other details about co-founder Page's condition except that whatever is ailing him isn't serious enough to prevent him from fulfilling his duties as CEO. The voice difficulty is serious enough to prevent Page, 39, from speaking next week at a conference in San Francisco, where Google is expected to show off some of the latest innovations in its Android operating system for smartphones and tablet computers. He also is expected to skip a conference call next month to review Google's financial results for the second quarter.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,573.57	1,325.51	2,859.09
-250.82	-30.18	-71.36
-1.96%	-2.23%	-2.44%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9947	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7599	Philippine Peso	42.455
British Pound	0.6403	Indian Rupee	56.96	Singapore Dollar	1.2771
Canadian Dollar	1.0275	Indonesian Rupiah	9515.75	South Korean Won	1157.55
Chinese Yuan	6.3642	Japanese Yen	80.4505	Swiss Franc	0.9563
Euro	0.7962	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1893	Taiwan Dollar	29.9285
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2679	Thailand Baht	31.82

Nation

Poll: Romney closes in on Obama, economic angst up

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fighting a swell of economic anxiety, President Barack Obama has lost much of the narrow lead he held just a month ago over Mitt Romney and the two now are locked in a virtually even race for the White House, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll. The survey also found a majority of Americans disapproving of how the Democratic president is handling a national economy that fewer people think is improving.

Less than five months before the election, 47 percent say they will vote for the president and 44 percent for Romney, a difference that is not statistically significant. The poll also shows that Romney has recovered from a bruising Republican primary, with more of his supporters saying they are certain to vote for him now.

The economy remains Obama's top liability. Only 3 out of 10 adults say the country is headed in the right direction and 55 percent disapprove of his handling of the economy, the highest level detected in AP-GfK polls this year.

"I'm not going to vote for Obama," said Raymond Back, a 60-year-old manufacturing plant manager from North Olmsted, Ohio, one of the most competitive states in this election. "It's just the wrong thing to do. I don't know what Romney is going to do, but this isn't the right way."

Yet, in a measure of Romney's own vulnerabilities, even some voters who say they support Romney believe the president will still be re-elected. Of all adults polled, 56 percent believe Obama will win a second term. And despite three months of declining job creation that have left the public increasingly glum, Romney has not managed to seize the economic issue from the president, with registered voters split virtually evenly on whether Romney or Obama would do a better job improving it.

The polling numbers come as no surprise to either camp. Both Romney and Obama advisers have anticipated a close contest that will be driven largely by economic conditions. The Obama camp is busy trying to define Romney, hoping it is reaching more independents like Doss Comer, 58, of Jacksonville, N.C., who said he would vote for Obama again, despite the lagging economy.

"I think we are on the wrong track," he said. "We're not getting anywhere. We're not growing. The unemployment rate just spiked up again." But, he added: "I don't trust Romney because of what he's doing. He's telling his business experience, that he was an investor in business. ... I don't think he has the right background any more than Obama."

With his Republican nomination now ensured, Romney has succeeded in unifying the party behind him and in maintaining a singular focus on making the election a referendum on Obama's handling of the economy. Over time, polls that measure Obama's standing have reflected fluctuations in the economy, which has shown both strength and weakness since it began to recover from the recent recession. The new survey illustrates how an ideologically divided country and a stumbling recovery have driven the two men into a tight match.

AP

Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney speaks to supporters at the Holland State Park beach Tuesday, June 19, 2012.

Romney: I'll tackle immigration in 'civil' manner

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—Backing off the harsh rhetoric of the Republican primaries, Mitt Romney pledged Thursday to address illegal immigration "in a civil but resolute manner." He outlined plans to overhaul the green card system for immigrants with families, and end immigration caps for their spouses and minor children.

In a speech before Hispanic leaders, Romney made only passing mention of his promise to complete a 2,000-mile border fence to help stem illegal immigration. Instead he attacked President Barack Obama's new plan to ease deportation rules for some illegal immigrants brought to the United States as children as little more than a "stop-gap measure."

"As President, I won't settle for a stop-gap measure. I will work with Republicans and Democrats to find a long-term solution," Romney told the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. "I will prioritize measures that strengthen legal immigration and make it easier. And I will address the problem of illegal immigration in a civil but resolute manner. We may not always agree, but when I make a promise to you, I will keep it."

Obama will speak to the same group Friday. The speeches come as the Supreme Court prepares to render judgment on a get-tough Arizona law and after Obama announced his new deportation plan.

Romney again refused to say whether he would reverse Obama's policy, promising his "own long-term solution that will replace and supersede the president's temporary measure."

The former Massachusetts governor has struggled in recent days to clarify his immigration policy as he pivots from the sharp tone that defined the months-long GOP primary to a general election audience in which Latinos will play a critical role.

During the primaries, Romney and his Republican opponents focused on border security and English as the official language, but the former Massachusetts governor didn't spell out precisely what he would do to address the nation's immigration problem.

On Thursday, as he filled in a few blanks, Romney devoted only one sentence in a 17-minute speech to the border fence and ignored language issues altogether. He did note, however, his father's birth to American parents living in a Mormon colony in Mexico.

"When he was five, they left everything behind, and started over in the United States," Romney said. "I've spoken often about how proud I am of my father."

At least 1 in 6 Americans is of Hispanic descent, according to the Census Bureau, and many lean towards the Democrats. By softening his tone on immigration, Romney is looking to narrow the advantage that Obama has with this pivotal constituency.

The stakes are high not only for states with larger Hispanic populations such as Florida, Nevada and Colorado, but for a growing number of other battlegrounds—Ohio, North Carolina and Virginia, among them—where even a modest shift among Latino voters could be significant.

Boehner takes hard line on Holder contempt vote

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Speaker John Boehner demanded Thursday that the Obama administration give in and turn over documents related to a botched gun-tracking operation, insisting that's the only way to stop a House vote to hold the attorney general in contempt.

Boehner took a hard line against the Obama administration and Attorney General Eric Holder despite a willingness by House Republicans and Holder to negotiate a settlement before the matter becomes a constitutional crisis. The president has invoked executive privilege, a legal principle used to avoid disclosure of internal presidential documents.

While a confrontation between the legislative and executive branches of government would be an academic dispute to most voters, Boehner on Thursday injected a human element into the battle over documents related to Operation Fast and Furious. He said the family of slain border agent Brian Terry deserved answers about the guns that killed him.

Two guns that were allowed to "walk" from Arizona to Mexico in the failed effort to track weapons were found near Terry after he was killed.

"The Terry family deserves answers about why their son was killed as a result of an operation run by the United States government," Boehner told his weekly news conference.

During the year and a half investigation by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, the Justice Department turned over 7,600 documents about details of Operation Fast and Furious. But because the department initially denied and then admitted it used a risky investigative technique known as "gun-walking," the committee has turned its attention to how the department responded to the investigation. The additional documents it seeks are about that topic.

Agents of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in Arizona abandoned the agency's usual practice of intercepting all weapons they believed to be illicitly purchased. Instead, the goal of gun-walking was to track such weapons to high-level arms traffickers who had long eluded prosecution and to dismantle their networks.

Gun-walking has long been barred by Justice Department policy, but federal agents in Arizona experimented with it in at least two investigations during the George W. Bush administration before Fast and Furious. These experiments came as the department was under widespread criticism that the old policy of arresting every suspected low-level "straw purchaser" was still allowing tens of thousands of guns to reach Mexico. A straw purchaser is an illicit buyer of guns for others.

Video shows Zimmerman's account of fatal fight

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Detectives who questioned George Zimmerman in the days after he fatally shot Trayvon Martin grilled him on his story and said some of his statements were inconsistent, according to video and audio police tapes released Thursday.

The skepticism is at odds with a public perception that the police department didn't fully investigate the neighborhood watch leader in the aftermath of the shooting. Zimmerman was arrested more than a month after the shooting, and only after the local police department said they were not going to charge him.

The evidence was made public by Zimmerman's attorney almost a week before Zimmerman's second bond hearing on a second-degree murder charge, and on the heels of unflattering telephone calls capturing Zimmerman and his wife talking in code about using money collected for a defense fund to pay credit cards.

Making it public now may help Zimmerman "because this is a case being played out in the press," said criminal defense attorney David Hill, who is not involved in the case.

"If there is a strategic basis, I don't think it hurts," Hill said. "I don't think it hurts his client at all."

The tapes give Zimmerman's most detailed account yet of what led to the Feb. 26 shooting. In one video, he goes to the scene of the shooting and re-enacts for police what happened, answering probing questions from authorities.

In an interrogation at the police station, a detective points out inconsistencies in his story, particularly Zimmerman's claim that Martin confronted him, punched him and slammed his head onto the ground when the teenager had no prior history of violence.

Detective Chris Sereno asks Zimmerman whether he was profiling Martin because he was black, a claim Martin's parents have made.

"You know you are going to come under a lot of scrutiny for this," Sereno said. "Had this person been white, would you have felt the same way?"

"Yes," said Zimmerman, who father is white and his mother Hispanic.

Zimmerman claims he shot the unarmed 17-year-old Martin teen in self-defense, under Florida's "stand your ground" law.

Martin's parents have said Zimmerman was the aggressor. They said Martin was walking back from a convenience store through the gated community in Sanford when Zimmerman spotted Martin and started following him. In the video (http://apne.ws/KWquJX), Zimmerman said he grabbed his gun from a holster on his waist before Martin could get it, and shot Martin once in the chest as they fought on the ground outside townhomes in a gated community. After firing, Zimmerman said he thought he missed.

Asia

Indonesian court gives Bali bomber 20-year term

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—An Indonesian militant was convicted of helping to build the massive car bomb used in the deadly 2002 Bali nightclub attacks and sentenced to 20 years in prison Thursday, concluding the trial for the case's last main defendant.

Known as "Demolition Man," Umar Patek, 45, is a leading member of the al-Qaida-linked network Jemaah Islamiyah. He was found guilty of all charges by the West Jakarta District Court of violating the country's anti-terror law for his role in the Oct. 12, 2002 Bali resort island attacks that killed 202 people, including 88 Australians and seven Americans.

The five-member judge panel concluded Patek played an important role in building the explosives used in the Bali bombings. He was also sentenced for his involvement in Jakarta church attacks on Christmas Eve in 2000 that killed 19.

"The acts of the defendant have created many victims and caused deep suffering to the victims' families," the verdict said.

Prosecutors had sought a life sentence for Patek, who was accused of illegal weapons possession, concealing terrorist acts, immigration violations and premeditated murder in the Bali bombings.

Some felt the sentence was too light, but were encouraged by the remorse Patek expressed during the trial.

"We will use him to influence other militants to not carry out terrorism acts," said Harry Purwanto, deputy chairman of Indonesia's counter terrorism agency. "Our aim is not only to jail them, but to change their platform to be law-abiding citizens."

More than 240 police, including a team of snipers, were deployed for the last session of the trial, which began in February. Several sharp shooters were seen atop nearby buildings.

AP

Indonesian militant Umar Patek, left, consults with his lawyer Ashludin Hatjani after being sentenced to 20 years in prison at West Jakarta district court in Jakarta, Indonesia, Thursday, June 21, 2012.

Except for a few relatives, the courtroom was packed mostly by journalists. Patek's Filipino wife, Ruqayyah binti Husein Luceno, 28, was sentenced in January to 27 months in jail for immigration violations.

Patek, who was arrested last year in Pakistan in the same northwestern town where Osama bin Laden was killed several months later, was the last key defendant to be tried in the attacks. He argued that he did not play a major part in building the car bomb, which was the biggest explosive used in the bombings. Instead, he said bomb-making masterminds Azahari bin Husin and Dulmatin were in charge of that job. Both have since died in police raids.

Patek, whose real name is Hisyam bin Alizein, has apologized to the victims' families, Christians and to the government, saying he was not in favor of going through with the attack against partying tourists, but that he could not speak out against other senior members of the group. The mission was supposedly meant to avenge Western policies in the Palestinian territories, but Patek argued that he never saw the connection.

The militant could have faced a maximum penalty of death by firing squad for the various terror-related and criminal charges.

Clad in a white cotton robe and matching pants with his hair and beard dyed a coppery red, the defendant sat quietly for hours as the judges read out their 273-page ruling, which included testimony from Patek and more than 40 witnesses. Their verdict and sentencing was read at the end, after the session had stretched into evening hours.

"He was disappointed," said chief defense attorney Ashluddin Hatjani. "It was too heavy compared to the sentences for other terrorists with bigger roles."

He said Patek will likely appeal the court's decision.

Suicide attackers hit Afghan hotel; hostages taken

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Taliban stormed a lakeside hotel north of Kabul, killing three security guards, taking hostages and staging an hours-long gun battle with Afghan security forces, police said Friday.

At least three suicide bombers—armed with machines guns, rocket-propelled grenades and vests laden with explosives—killed the guards, then burst into the Spozhmai hotel at Qargha Lake around 11:30 p.m. Thursday, Kabul police said in a statement. At least one policeman was also killed in the attack, said Kabul Police Chief Mohammad Ayub Salangi.

By mid-morning Friday, an unknown number of militants were still fighting Afghan forces. Black smoke was rising from the two-story hotel, according to Associated Press video. NATO helicopters circled overhead.

There were civilian casualties, but Afghan authorities did not have details because they have not been able to get inside the hotel.

"It was around 11:20 p.m. last night when it all started," said Mohammad Ghani, who was at the scene. "It got quiet for a couple of hours and then the fighting stated again."

Eighteen people, including women and children, have been rescued from the hotel and two of the attackers were dead, said Gen. Kadam Shah Shayem, an Afghan army commander in Kabul.

Four guests jumped out of a window at the two-story hotel and crouched in the lake to hide from the attackers, Shayem said.

"Our forces have surrounded the area," Shayem said. "There is still shooting. We are being very careful because there still are people—civilians—inside the hotel."

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said the Taliban attacked the hotel because foreigners there were drinking alcohol and participating in other activities banned by Islam.

The U.S.-led coalition was supporting Afghan security forces who responded to the attack.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US, SKorea say huge war games meant to warn NKorea

POCHEON, South Korea (AP)—The United States and South Korea are holding massive live-fire drills meant as a warning against North Korean aggression. Friday's one-day drills south of the heavily armed Korean border involve fighter jets, attack helicopters, armored vehicles and 2,000 allied troops. South Korea's Defense Ministry said in a statement that the drills are to deter a North Korean attack. Pyongyang calls the exercises preparation for war. Monday is the 62nd anniversary of the start of the Korean War. The three-year conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty.

90 still missing after boat capsizes off Indonesia

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A search continued Friday for scores of men missing after a steel-hull fishing boat carrying about 200 suspected asylum seekers bound for Australia capsized in heavy seas south of Indonesia. Four Indonesian and Australian warships, four merchant ships and five Australian government aircraft had joined the search in 2-meter (7-foot) swells for around 90 people still missing after the tragedy Thursday, Australian Maritime Safety Authority spokeswoman Jo Meehan said. All aboard the vessel were male. An Australian navy patrol boat and three cargo ships had rescued 110 survivors—including a 13-year-old boy—by late Thursday and delivered them to the Australian territory of Christmas Island 200 kilometers (120 miles) to the south early Friday, Meehan said. Three bodies also were recovered.

No more victims found after Indonesian plane crash

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Rescuers Friday finished searching damaged and burned homes without finding more victims of a military plane crash in Indonesia's capital that killed seven airmen and four people in a house. The Fokker F-27 turboprop was making a routine training flight when it crashed into the military housing complex in Jakarta on Thursday about 1.5 kilometers (nearly a mile) from the runway where it was trying to land. The dead were two children, their grandmother and aunt in one of the eight damaged houses, and the plane's pilot, co-pilot and five trainees. "Search and rescue efforts have been finished," said air force spokesman Col. Agung Sasongko Jati on Friday morning. "All the wreckages have been removed and there is no more new victim."

New Pakistan PM candidate faces arrest warrant

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistani judge issued an arrest warrant Thursday for the ruling party's candidate for prime minister over allegations he illegally imported drugs, injecting fresh uncertainty into efforts to replace the previous premier who was ousted by the Supreme Court.

The warrant was announced after the Pakistan People's Party nominated Makhdoom Shahabuddin, raising suspicion it was politically motivated and aimed at blocking the president's choice to replace Yousuf Raza Gilani. The anti-narcotic force is run by the army, another power center in Pakistan's chaotic polity and one that has at times allied with the judiciary to target elected governments.

Gilani was dismissed Tuesday because he refused to initiate a corruption case against President Asif Ali Zardari, the head of the PPP.

The order, which left the country without a Cabinet, was an escalation of a bruising power struggle between the government and activist judges, who critics say are unfairly prioritizing cases against the government. The arrest warrant is sign that tensions may continue, distracting the country even as its relations with the United States are facing major strains.

Shahabuddin, the outgoing textile minister and a veteran PPP lawmaker, was Zardari's first choice for the prime minister. The 65-year-old appeared defiant as he filed nomination papers ahead of a scheduled vote in the parliament on Friday. But by Thursday evening, two other People's Party stalwarts were being mentioned as likely replacement candidates.

The PPP has a majority in parliament, and together with its coalition partners should have the numbers to get their choice elected. General elections are scheduled for March next year, but most assume the political upheaval will ensure they will be brought forward to the fall.

The arrest warrant was issued by an anti-narcotics court judge in the northern city of Rawalpindi, according to an officer at the anti-narcotics force and a law ministry official.

Shahabuddin was accused over his role in a scandal over the import of a drug that can be used to make methamphetamine, said the officials, who didn't give their names because they were not authorized to speak to the media. He was health minister at the time.

Gilani's son also has also been linked to the case, which revolves around two Pakistani pharmaceutical companies that allegedly used political connections to obtain huge amounts of ephedrine in 2010. They are suspected of diverting it to people in the drug trade who could have used it to make methamphetamines worth billions of dollars.

Gilani's son, who was also issued with an arrest warrant Thursday, and Shahabuddin have denied any wrongdoing.

Shahabuddin was asked about the arrest warrant after filing his nomination at the parliament. He replied with a line from a poem about not being afraid of "hostile winds" and thanked the PPP and its coalition partners for choosing him.

The PPP said two other candidates—lawmaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and outgoing information minister Qamar Zaman Kaira—also had filed papers in the event that Shahabuddin withdraws. Conflicting media reports said each candidate was gathering support within the party and its coalition partners.

The next prime minister will likely quickly face the same order from the Supreme Court to investigate Zardari as Gilani did, meaning tensions will continue to roil the fragile political setup. The Gilani government was widely criticized for exacerbating—or doing nothing—to address the massive economic and security challenges in the country. No one expects any changes under a new premier.

World

Media demonize Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's media are demonizing the Muslim Brotherhood as the state's worst enemy, claiming the fundamentalist group plans to plunge the country into chaos if its candidate does not emerge as the winner from the presidential runoff.

Results of the weekend election were set to be announced Thursday, but officials postponed the declaration, setting off a wave of charges of manipulation aimed at all sides, including the ruling military.

The Brotherhood escalated its fight with the military, calling for a mass protest Friday to denounce what it called a power grab by the generals. Three major Islamist groups said Thursday they would join the protest in Tahrir Square, birthplace of the uprising that forced Hosni Mubarak out of office last year.

Thousands of protesters, mostly Islamists, gathered in Tahrir Thursday for the third successive day.

Protesters demanded the reinstatement of the Islamist-dominated parliament dissolved by a court ruling last week. They also called on the military to rescind a "constitutional declaration" granting the generals sweeping powers and stripping the next president of much of his authority.

International condemnation of the generals who took over from Mubarak also intensified. Human Rights Watch complained that recent moves by the military suggested that there would not be a "meaningful" handover of power to civilian rule by July 1 as promised and created conditions "ripe" for more human rights abuses.

The statement echoed criticism by former President Jimmy Carter, a frequent visitor to Egypt who repeatedly met with its ruling generals, and Amnesty International.

The military has over the past week given itself the role of legislator, the right to arrest civilians and control over drafting a new constitution. It has also taken several steps to shield the military from civilian oversight.

The sense of political uncertainty engulfing the country following last weekend's presidential runoff is heightened by the failure of Egypt's election commission to announce a winner. Both candidates—Mubarak's last prime minister, Ahmed Shafiq, and Mohammed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood—have claimed victory.

"I have faith in the judges of Egypt, but too much delay will raise question marks," Saad el-Katatni, a senior Brotherhood leader and speaker of the dissolved legislature, told Al-Jazeera in an interview. "The result is already known and it is Mohammed Morsi."

Late Thursday, Shafiq repeated his claim of victory and charged that the Brotherhood was "playing games" and striking "back-door deals" with outside powers to influence the results.

Shafiq denounced the Brotherhood's public appeals. "These protests in the squares and fear-mongering campaigns in the media are all aimed at putting pressure on the election commission," he said.

Several media outlets are vigorously campaigning against the Brotherhood in articles and interviews many suspect to be inspired by the generals, who have relied on a coterie of media celebrities and analysts of military background to defend their policies and vilify their critics.

The cover of this week's edition of the state weekly Al-Mussawar showed a picture of Morsi placing a kiss on the head of the group's spiritual leader, or Murshid, Mohammed Badie in a gesture of both reverence and submission.

"We will not be ruled by the Murshid," said the magazine in red print under the picture. Inside, eight prominent literary figures known for their liberal views said in interviews that a Brotherhood presidency could change Egypt forever.

"I consider the Brotherhood to be a threat to Egypt," said one of the eight, prize-winning novelist Gamal el-Ghetani. "We are living a moment that may be similar to (Adolf) Hitler's rise to power."

The independent el-Destour daily splashed on its front page an unsourced story claiming that the Brotherhood planned a bloodbath if Morsi was not declared the winner. In the weekly el-Fagr, known to be close to the military, editor-in-chief Adel Hamouda warned that the Brotherhood planned to create an "Islamic emirate" in Egypt.

The Muslim Brotherhood

Egypt's oldest Islamist organization, the Muslim Brotherhood, has grown into a worldwide Sunni Islamist movement with branches in more than 70 countries. Its stated goal is to create states ruled by Islamic law, or Sharia.

History in Egypt

1928 Founded by Hassan al Banna to spread Islamic morals, charitable works; became involved in politics to drive British from Egypt

1948 Dissolved by Egyptian government for attacking British, Jewish interests; accused of assassinating Prime Minister Mahnoud al Nuqrashi

1952 Plays supporting role in coup ending colonial rule

1954 Banned after failed attempt to assassinate President Gamal Abdul Nasser; grows underground

1964 Writings of one prominent member, Sayyid Qutb, who advocated jihad (struggle), inspire founding of radical groups, including Islamic Jihad and al Qaeda

1980s Tries to rejoin political mainstream, forming alliances with major political parties, wins seats in parliament

Spread worldwide
Egypt
Additional Middle Eastern and North African nations where the group has a significant presence
Spreads to the U.S. in the 1960s

2005 Wins 20 percent of seats, leading President Hosni Mubarak to have the constitution rewritten, banning religious political parties

2010-2011 Brotherhood-aligned candidates win no parliamentary seats, leading to accusations of fraud; Arab Spring protests ensue, leading to ouster of Mubarak

2012 Muslim Brotherhood candidate Mohamed Morsi claims Egyptian presidency; standoff between Morsi and the country's military authority inevitable

© 2012 MCT
Source: Federation of American Scientists, U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, BBC
Graphic: Pat Carr

Syrian pilot flies his MiG to Jordan, gets asylum

BEIRUT (AP)—A Syrian fighter pilot on a training mission flew his MiG-21 warplane to neighboring Jordan, where he was given asylum Thursday in a defection from the fiercely loyal air force that signals some of the most ironclad allegiances in Damascus could be fraying. Syria immediately denounced the pilot as a traitor.

The brazen move was a clear triumph for the rebels fighting to overthrow President Bashar Assad and was the first defection by an air force officer with his plane since the uprising began in March 2011.

The pilot, identified as Col. Hassan Hammadeh, removed his air force tag and knelt on the tarmac in prayer after landing at King Hussein Air Base in Mafraq, Jordan, 45 miles (70 kilometers) north of Amman, a Jordanian security official said.

Hammadeh will be allowed to stay in Jordan on "humanitarian grounds," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

"He was given asylum because if he returned home, his safety will not be guaranteed. He may tortured or killed," the official said. He declined to say what Jordan will do with the jet.

Syria's state-run news agency, SANA, reported earlier that authorities had lost contact with a MiG-21 on a training mission. After the defection became clear, SANA quoted an unidentified military official as saying the pilot was "a traitor to his country and his military honor."

Syria's Defense Ministry said "measures will be taken against (the pilot) in accordance with Syrian military laws." It added that Damascus was in contact with "concerned parties" about getting the jet back.

Thousands of soldiers have abandoned the regime since the military began firing on protesters at the start of the uprising. Many defectors have joined a rebel force known as the Free Syrian Army and the conflict looks more like a civil war every day. Still, the rebels remain far outgunned.

The Obama administration praised the pilot as "very courageous," with State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland adding that there have been hundreds of defections so far, mainly lower- and middle-ranking officials.

Pentagon spokesman George Little called the defection "the right thing" to do, and said he didn't yet know whether the U.S. would have access to the pilot.

"We've long called for members of the Syrian armed forces and members of the Syrian regime to defect and to abandon their positions, rather than be complicit in the regime's atrocities," Little said.

"This is just one of countless instances where Syrians, including members of the security forces, have rejected the abysmal actions of the Assad regime, and it certainly will not be the last," he said.

U.S. Ambassador to Syria Robert Ford posted a message on Facebook urging soldiers to abandon the regime late Wednesday.

"Members of the Syrian military should reconsider their support for a regime that is losing the battle," Ford wrote on the embassy's page. "The Assad regime cannot outlast the desire of Syrian people for a democratic state."

Jordanian Information Minister Sameeh Maaytah confirmed the pilot had defected and had been granted political asylum. He said the plane landed at 10:45 a.m. (0745 GMT).

It was "the biggest and most dangerous defection in Syria since the crisis began," said Rami Abdul-Rahman, head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human rights.

"Defections in the air force form a real danger to the Syrian regime," he added. "The only people who are allowed to join the air force in Syria are strong regime loyalists."

Despite more than a year of deadly violence, Syria's military generally has stood by Assad—unlike the armies of Tunisia and Egypt, which turned on their leaders.

Assad and his father before him stacked key military posts with members of their minority Alawite sect in the past 40 years, ensuring the loyalty of the armed forces by melding the fate of the army and the regime.

The air force is particularly close to the regime. Assad's late father and predecessor, Hafez, was an air force pilot and commander before seizing power in 1970.

Free Syrian Army spokesman Ahmad Kassem said the group had encouraged the pilot to defect and monitored his activity until the Soviet-made jet landed safely in Jordan. The pilot was based in southern Syria, he said.

The Syrian regime has been hit with defections before, although none as dramatic as the one Thursday.

In March, however, Turkish officials said two generals, a colonel and two sergeants defected from the Syrian army and fled to Turkey. Also that month, Syria's deputy oil minister became the highest-ranking civilian official to join the opposition and urged his countrymen to "abandon this sinking ship."

Brig. Gen. Mostafa Ahmad al-Sheik, who fled to Turkey in January, was the highest ranking officer to bolt. In late August, Adnan Bakkour, the attorney general of the central city of Hama, appeared in a video announcing he had defected.

In January, Imad Ghalioun, a member of Syria's parliament, left the country to join the opposition, saying the country was suffering sweeping human rights violations.

WORLD BRIEFS

Paraguay president faces impeachment trial

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP)—Paraguayan lawmakers voted to impeach President Fernando Lugo for his role in a deadly clash involving landless farmers and announced that the former Roman Catholic bishop's impeachment trial would begin on Friday in the Senate. Lugo, who was elected four years ago on promises that he would help the South American country's poor, went on national television to dismiss rumors that he would resign and vowed to face the trial "with all its consequences." The lower house voted 76-1 on Thursday to impeach the president. Hours later the Senate announced that it will begin his impeachment trial on Friday.

Bolivian police mutiny over pay

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—About 30 members of an elite Bolivian police commando unit mutinied in La Paz on Thursday, expelling their commanders and seizing their barracks along with their wives to demand higher wages. The barracks are just 100 meters from Bolivia's presidential palace. The protesters were demanding salaries on par with soldiers and a pension equal to 100 percent of their salaries. Bolivian police earn about $144 a month and were not appeased by a 7 percent government-decreed wage increase this year.

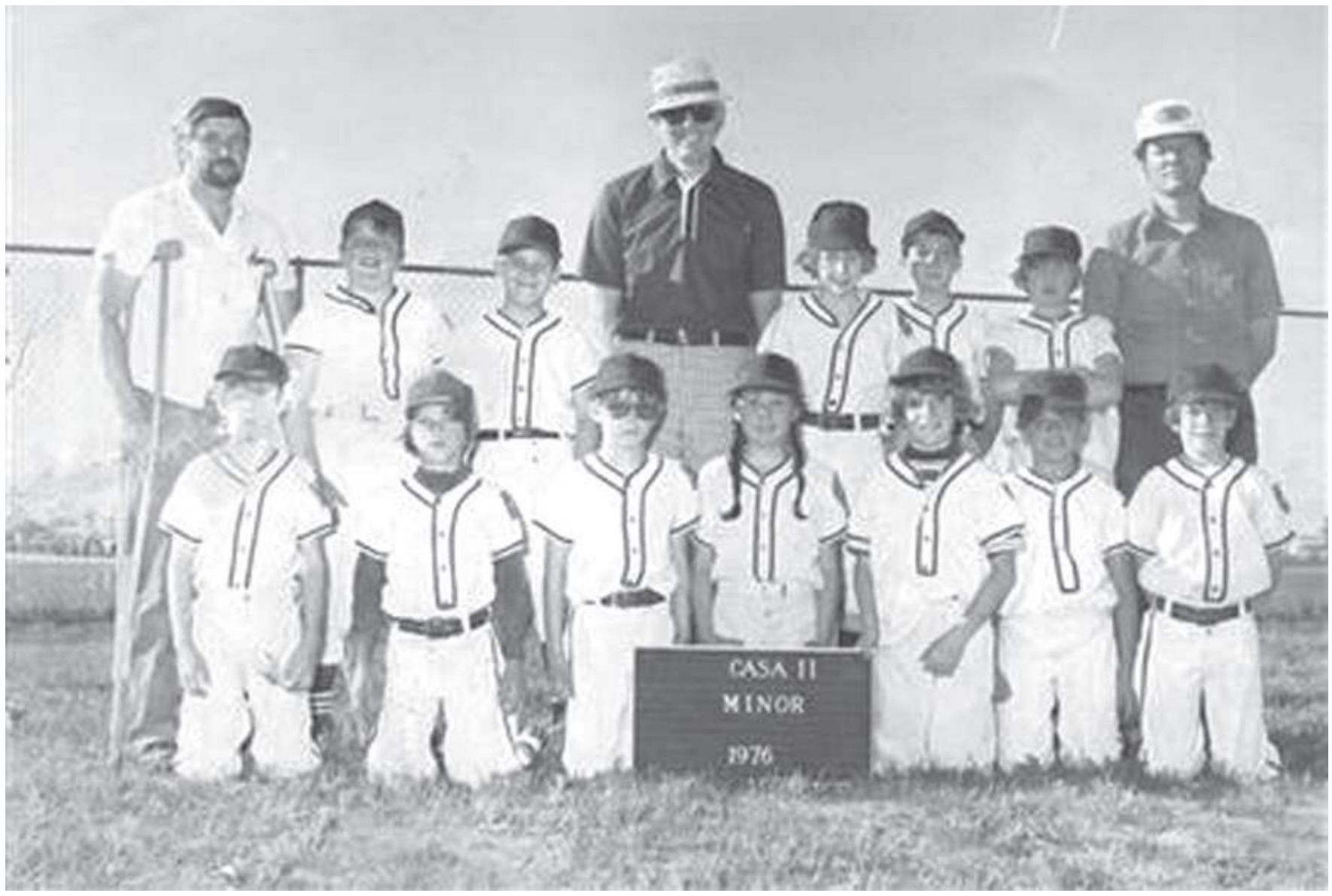
Mexico troops detain son of most-wanted drug lord

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican marines on Thursday detained a young man they believe is one of the sons of Mexico's most-wanted drug kingpin, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, leader of the powerful Sinaloa cartel. The presumed son, identified by the Navy as Jesus Alfredo Guzman Salazar, was allegedly taking on an increasing leadership role in Mexico's most powerful drug cartel and purportedly served as the administrator of his father's fortune, estimated by Forbes magazine at about $1 billion. The boyish, heavy-set Guzman Salazar, known as "El Gordo," or "Fattie," was captured early Thursday during a raid by marines in Zapopan, an upscale suburb of the western city of Guadalajara, thanks to intelligence work and information from U.S. authorities, Navy spokesman Jose Luis Vergara said at a news conference.

Youngstyle

I was the girl on the real-life 'Bad News Bears'

MARTHA IRVINE
AP NATIONAL WRITER



AP

In this summer 1976 photo provided by the Cadillac All Sports Association, Martha Irvine, center front, poses with her baseball team and coaches in a photo taken in Cadillac, Mich., four years after the passage of Title IX, the federal amendment that opened up sports opportunities for girls and women. Irvine, then age 11, was the first girl to play boys' baseball in her hometown and says the experience helped shape the adult she would become.

The note atop the stack of blank baseball league applications was clear—"Boys Only."

I wasn't happy about that. It just didn't seem fair.

Mrs. Johnson, my elementary school's secretary, must have agreed.

When I asked for one of the applications, she looked to see if anyone was around and quietly slipped one to me—a tiny act of rebellion that would change my summer and, in some ways, the person I would become.

I took the paper home and, with my parents' blessing, completed and returned it.

This was back in 1976, just four years after the passage of Title IX, the federal amendment that opened up sports opportunities to girls and women.

At the time, though, I had absolutely no clue what that was, or how it might help me.

I was 11. I just wanted to play baseball. And because, at the time, the sports association in my small, northern Michigan hometown had no offerings for girls my age, they let me.

Three years earlier, a girl in Ypsilanti, Mich., had broken the barrier in Little League. And now it was my turn.

There was only one problem: While I had little doubt I should be ALLOWED to play, I really didn't know how to. My only experience was a few pickup games with my brother and his friends in the field next to our house. They used a bat and tennis ball and usually hit it so far nobody really fielded the ball anyway. I was usually just their stand-in runner.

So panic quickly set in when I realized that I'd potentially signed myself up for weeks of teasing and humiliation.

My dad and brother didn't let that happen. Before the season started, they spent evenings and weekends in the backyard, teaching me how to throw, field and bat.

If I had anything to say about it, no one was going to accuse me of "throwing like a girl"—something you heard all the time on playgrounds back then.

When I showed up for my first practice, my stomach was jittery. A few of my teammates' eyes widened. There was a bit of grumbling, but it didn't last long.

The tone was set by my coach, an easygoing sort named Bruce Baker who often wore a floppy fishing hat instead of a baseball cap.

I was always trying to prove that I belonged. He was always reminding me to relax and have fun.

And good thing, because we were northern Michigan's version of the "Bad News Bears," the team in the movie that had just come out that spring.

We lost game after game—and I endured the taunts from the crowd and the opposing teams.

I played second base and outfield, mostly. One time, coach put me into pitch. But, while I liked pitching in practice, I hated the added pressure in the game and asked to go back to my second base post.

People in the stands laughed. It was proof, they said, that I shouldn't be on the field.

Later, when a hard grounder took an awkward bounce and hit me in the shoulder, they laughed some more.

Mostly, it was parents, not kids.

It got so that when it was my turn to bat, my dad or my brother would stand guard behind the fence next to the on-deck circle to fend them off and keep my mind in the game.

"Go get `em, slugger," my brother would calmly say.

I smiled. I liked being called slugger, though I was no Tatum O'Neal out there. I was a shy, string bean of a kid with long braids—not very tough at all, and more likely to be out on the field praying I wouldn't make a mistake.

Even so, I was determined to stick it out, though I also was secretly thankful when a second girl joined the league, taking some of the heat off me.

Another thing made it easier. The boys on my team decided I was OK. Maybe, just maybe, they even liked having me around.

Little by little, as the weeks passed, they shouted their own words of encouragement. They had my back and I had theirs—and for the first time, I realized what it was like to be part of a team.

We might've been in last place—but we gave it our all.

And when that first win finally did come, we ran together to the concession stand to claim our paper cups full of celebratory soda pop and enjoy a brief, sweet moment of triumph.

For me, it wasn't so much the win that mattered. I was just one of them. I finally, truly belonged—and I was having fun, just as coach had wanted.

The next year, girls softball for my age group was added to the summertime sports roster. Many considered it a victory—though, honestly, I didn't really see it that way at the time.

I liked baseball. I missed my team.

Looking back now, though, I think about how getting the chance to play changed me, as I'm sure it did many girls after Title IX came along. The law forced people to rethink their attitudes.

It was lucky timing for me—and with the support of my family, Mrs. Johnson, Coach Baker and my teammates—gave me the chance to test what my parents always preached.

They'd told me to stand up for what you believed. And that summer, they let me do it.

There is a confidence that comes from that, an inner strength.

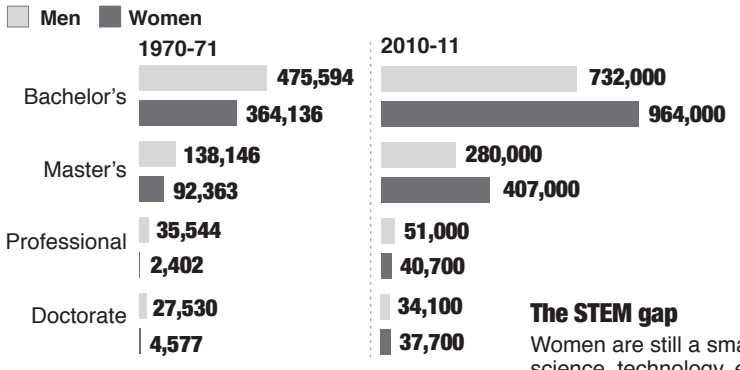
It made me a better ballplayer, too.

Title IX, 40 years later

The landmark civil rights law opened major educational opportunities for women when it was signed by President Nixon on June 23, 1972.

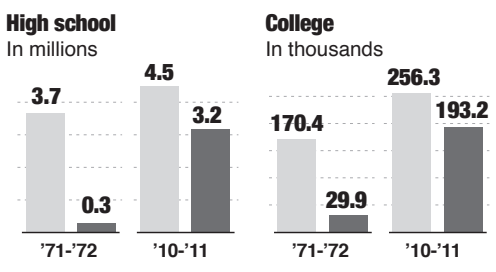
More women earn college degrees

Women earn almost three times the bachelor's degrees now than they did before Title IX. The number of women and men earning college degrees before Title IX vs. the present



More girls, women play sports now

Number engaging in high school, college sports



What Title IX says

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

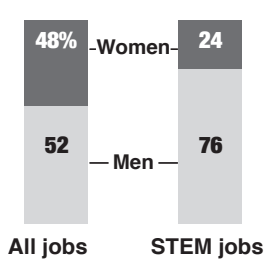
--Title IX of Educational Amendments Act of 1972

The STEM gap

Women are still a small share of the high-paying science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) workforce

Jobs by gender

For 2009



Pay gap impact

For every dollar men earn, women earn

All jobs

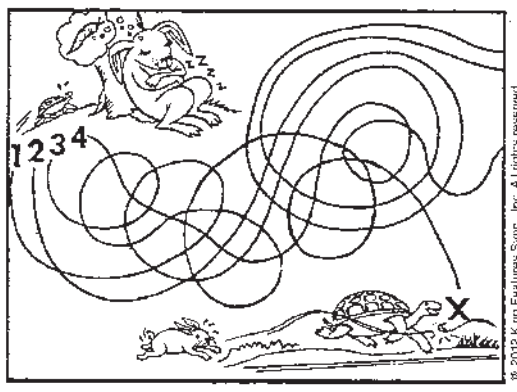
STEM jobs

Source: National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Commerce
Graphic: Judy Treible

© 2012 MCT

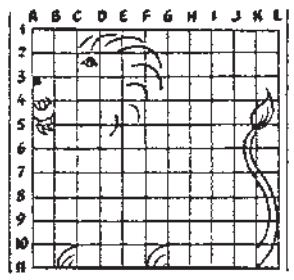
Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



© 2012 King Features Synd., Inc. All rights reserved.

HARE THIS! Sweet dreams, Mr. Rabbit, but your turtle pal is winning the race. Which path leads to the finish line?



LION IN WAIT FOR DETAILS

HEADS UP, it seems the king of the jungle, at left, has all but disappeared. To restore missing details, simply draw lines in accord with these letter-number coordinates:

Begin at B-4, draw to C-5 to D-5 to E-4.

Start again at D-5, draw to D-6 to C-10.

Draw from C-11 to D-11 to E-7 to H-9 to H-8 to J-8. Add E-6 to E-7; also add H-9 to H-10 to G-10; add G-11 to K-11.

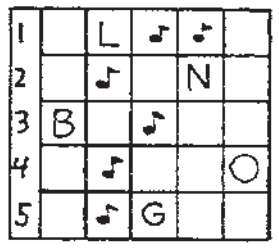
Draw from K-11 to K-8 to F-3. Add A-3 to C-2 to complete the task.

If crayons are handy, add an appropriate color or two. How long will it take you to finish?

CERTAIN AGE! Take your age, add seven, double result, add 16, double result again, divide by four and subtract 15. Answer will be your age, whether you are 1 or 100. Give it a try, then challenge someone else.

STRING ALONG! You are challenged to insert names of five musical instruments in blanks at right, and to do so in such a manner that letters in squares showing musical notes may be rearranged to form the name of a sixth instrument — one of six letters, usually having six strings.

Use five of the following five-letter names to comply: Banjo, viola, piano, bugle, cello, organ, flute.



1—flute. 2—piano. 3—bugle. 4—banjo. 5—organ. Sixth instrument: A guitar.

Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius who made the following sage observation: "It is only the very wisest and the very stupidest who cannot change."

■ The 1,000 most common words in English make up approximately 90 percent of all writing in the language.

■ If you're planning a trip Down Under, be sure you save some time for the Australian state of Tasmania. In the capital, Derwent, is the critically acclaimed Museum of Old and New Art, or MONA. One of the unusual—I would even venture to say unique in the world—offerings is the after-hours "naturist tour." Yes, that means naked. A naked tour guide leads naked tourists through the museum. Even the security guards are naked.

■ You may be surprised to learn that hot and cold running water has been around for thousands of years. Members of the upper class in ancient Egypt used copper tubing to pipe it into their homes.

■ The oldest goldfish on record lived 41 years. His name was Fred.

■ According to the U.S. Census, the Pacific states (including Hawaii) are home to the men with the longest life expectancy, while women tend to live longer in the South.

■ If one or both of your parents were sleepwalkers, you're more prone to nocturnal wanderings yourself.

■ In the late 1960s, J.I. Rodale, creator of Prevention magazine, was invited to be a guest on the "Dick Cavett Show." After talking confidently about his good health and predicting that he would live to be 100, he seemed to doze off. The host and another guest chuckled a bit about the apparent nap, until they realized that Rodale had died. Needless to say, the show never aired.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "I would have made a good Pope."—Richard Nixon

(c) 2012 King Features Synd., Inc.

MAGIC MAZE ●

FATHER IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES

C E B X U V B R O L I E B Y V
S Q N K H A A E B Y W M T R O
L J G E E T B B Y W I U R P N
K I G D B T A P A S E D E Z X
V S Q O M E N A S O T O H K I
I G E C A R K I R O Y A Y B W
U S Q P N L E J R E T D B H F
E C A Y X R T H V A D A W U B
U S Q P N M I K T A P E C J H
F E C B Z Y R E D A V X P V U
T R Q P O M L K P I F H G E D

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Baba	Edesapa	Otosan	Tatah
Banketi	Father	Pabbi	Vader
Buwa	Missier	Parinte	Vatter
Daddy	Otac	Peder	

@ 2012 King Features Synd., Inc. All rights reserved.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

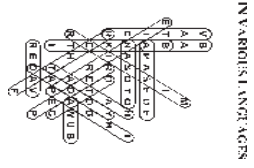
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		×		32
×		×		+	
	−		×		15
+		+		×	
	÷		×		20
17		30		35	

1 2 3 4 4 5 7 8 9

© 2012 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



FATHER IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES

GO FIGURE ANSWER

32	4	×	7	+	1
×	+		×		×
15	3	×	4	−	9
	×		+		+
20	5	×	2	÷	8
	35		30		17

The right way to remove ticks

Paw's corner by Sam Mazzotta

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I wanted to pass on to your readers something I found that works very well for removing ticks: Icy-Hot. My little dog got a tick right in our own yard. I tried using a match, but I was so nervous that I might burn her. My sister told me to use Icy-Hot. I'm so relieved it did the trick!—Diane O., Palmyra, N.Y.

DEAR DIANE: Interesting tip! One way that we used to remove ticks from our dogs many years ago was by smearing a dollop of Vaseline over the embedded tick, covering it completely. Eventually, the tick would suffocate or try to escape.

In recent years, however, veterinarians and disease-control experts have recommended against using Vaseline because it can take up to 48 hours for the tick to suffocate. Ticks need to be removed quickly —within 24 hours or less. Why? Because after a day of feeding, the tick is completely engorged with blood. To keep feeding, it regurgitates that blood right back into your pet—and if the tick is carrying a disease like Lyme, your pet is likely to be infected.

Ditto with the old-fashioned match trick. When a lighted match is held to the tick, the tick often pulls out quickly—but it tends to regurgitate as it does so.

So what's the best way to remove ticks? Experts recommend tweezers, grabbing as close to the tick's head as possible. Slowly pull the head out without twisting or jerking —being careful not to squish the tick for the reasons listed above. If the tick's head or part of its head breaks off in the skin, monitor your pet for a few days. It should be worked out by your pet's own body, but if signs of infection appear, contact your veterinarian.

■ ■ ■

Send your questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

(c) 2012 King Features Synd., Inc.

'Ectoplasmic Ick' will baffle kids

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

A friend of mine is an amazing magician who loves to play tricks on the kids in the neighborhood. One afternoon, I noticed there was a crowd gathered around him watching with great anticipation a magic trick being performed. I arrived just in time to witness his grand finale: pulling a bouquet of flowers out of thin air. The surprise on the kids' faces—and mine—was a sight to behold.

Here's another wonderful surprise, and a bit of magic your kids won't want to miss. It's a natural transformation that leads to the most peculiar result. This slithery goop appears to be solid one moment, only to ooze out between your fingers, over your wrist and down your arm seconds later.

Once you make this concoction, let the school-age kids in your home or at your summer birthday party play with it. Then have a contest to give it a name. For starters, how about "Sublime Slime" or, our favorite, "Ectoplasmic Ick"!

Here's the recipe:

In a mixing bowl, stir together 3/4 cup cornstarch and 1/2 cup water to form a thick paste. Add food coloring or liquid tempera paint for color, if you wish. You may need to add more water. Now, roll the goop in your hands to form a ball.

Immediately, experiment with it to discover its unique properties. Squeeze it, hit it or let it drip through your fingers. Or, place it on a cookie sheet, press it flat, roll it in a ball or let it go. It's amazing! If you have a bowlful, set plastic toys on it and watch them sink like they're in quicksand.

For another surprising experiment, let it evaporate in the sunshine to discover cornstarch once again. Add water and you'll have another batch.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

(c) 2012 Donna Erickson
Distributed by King Features Synd.

Good Housekeeping

TAPPING IN TO YOUR HIDDEN SPACE

Renovations that bypass expansion

By JENNIFER V. HUGHES
THE RECORD (HACKENSACK N.J.)

HACKENSACK, N.J.— When it comes to renovation projects, contractors say homeowners often don't (pardon the pun) think outside the box.

Want a closet? You can steal some space from a neighboring room. Want a room? You can repurpose that little-used closet into something more practical. When your contractor takes a peek behind your walls, you might be surprised to find you have usable space you never knew existed.

A savvy contractor can often come up with an innovative solution for home design and construction problems.

"People sort of get tunnel vision," says Richard Graniere, owner of Wayne, N.J.-based Advantage Contracting. "They work in the existing space instead of working within the outside perimeters of the house. They get blinded by the walls."

One of the easiest ways to repurpose space is to take down non-load-bearing walls, and Graniere says most walls in your home are non-load bearing. Even a load-bearing wall can be removed, but it requires support beams to be erected in its place.

"You can really open things up," he says.

The contractor Dominic Mangiarelli recalls the case about four years ago of a woman who asked him to renovate a bathroom, but also talked about how much she wanted more closet space for her five-bedroom colonial in Livingston, N.J.

In the process of the renovation, Mangiarelli had to take down a wall between the bathroom and the hallway. In the middle, he discovered a cavity between a chimney and the hallway wall.

"It was small, only about 18 inches by 18 inches, but to her it was a gold mine," he says. Mangiarelli carved out the space for a linen closet in that cavity. A custom door for such a small size would be very expensive, but Mangiarelli came up with a novel idea: He used one panel of a bi-fold door. A little paint and spackle and a carpet remnant completed the job.

"She was just as excited about that closet as she was about the weeks of work I put into the bathroom," Mangiarelli says with a laugh.

Since then, Mangiarelli has done the hidden-closet trick at least two more times. About three months ago with a client in Rockaway Township, N.J., he found a tiny space between the bathroom and a hallway landing that was just right for a linen closet that could be accessed from the hallway.

"These happy surprises happen all the time," Mangiarelli says. "You never know what you're going to find until you start tearing things out."

Newer homes are much more likely to have hidden spaces, Mangiarelli says. With older homes, craftsmen made sure to use every possible space wisely.

"They used every nook and cranny they could find," he says. "It's sad to say, but in newer homes they often slapped up walls over spaces because it was quicker, rather than to use all the space they had."

He recalled another "happy surprise," when he was working with a Livingston woman on a bathroom renovation.

She wanted to get rid of her bathtub to gain some more space and go with just a shower stall.

Mangiarelli advised against it, knowing it would bump down her eventual resale value.

Instead, he realized that he could swipe some space from an L-shaped closet/changing room that abutted the bathroom.

"She wasn't using the space in the closet, and it really helped the bathroom," he says He kept the tub, added the stall shower and made the client happy.

"There are always ways to find space," he says.

Shelia Manigault could read between the lines of her house. During a large renovation project on her Washington Township, N.J., home, she knew her family no longer needed the walk-in hallway closet upstairs.

Instead, Manigault and her contractor, Glen Lumia, owner of Creative Design Construction and Remodeling, decided to turn the space into a computer/homework nook for her kids. One of the closet's walls abuts the staircase. They decided to cut a window-size hole in that wall to make the space more airy.

"I wanted them to have a little corner to go study and sit on the computer and still not be in their bedrooms," she says. "I can go up the stairs and see them; it's like a cozy corner."

Manigault had advice for other homeowners who are considering renovation jobs.

"I made a list of my needs first instead of looking at the space first," she says. "Once I figured out what I needed, then I could figure out where to put it."

A Glen Rock, N.J., homeowner, Jennifer Scherer, found her hidden space while working with John Wohlberg, owner of JH Renovations of Ridgewood, on the master bedroom. The problem was the closet. Though it had a handy built-in dresser, it was too small.

"There were two racks, one behind the other, and it was impossible to get your clothes," she says. "My husband kept his clothing in the hallway closet."

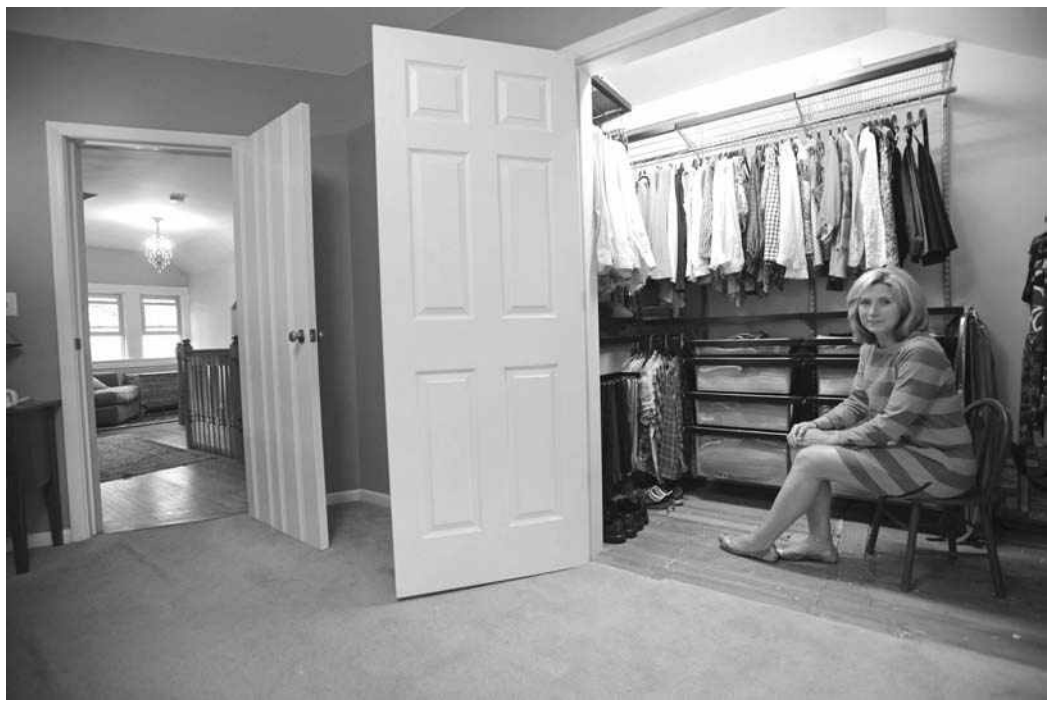
Wohlberg suggested removing the built-in dresser and taking about a foot from a daughter's bedroom to enlarge the closet. At first, Scherer says, the couple was dubious.

"My husband originally wanted to take even more space, but John said it would look funny," she says. "I couldn't visualize it, but it turned out to be the perfect size. I didn't know if it would make her room look awkward, but it actually makes it look more interesting."

The wall in the girl's bedroom juts in about a foot and then runs the length of the closet, about eight feet, before doglegging back for the rest of the wall.

"It looks like a little nook in her room," Scherer says. "He put in crown molding and a chair rail around the room, and it all tied together. No one would ever walk into her room and say, 'What is this?' You'd never know."

The master bedroom closet is now deep and wide, and has room for all the couple's clothing. Wohlberg also vaulted the ceiling to give more space and light.



THE RECORD/MCT

Jennifer Scherer in her new, bigger closet at her home in Paterson, New Jersey, May 17, 2012. Her contractor removed a built-in and took space from another room.

Getting the most from your air conditioner

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I have a window-mounted air conditioner that I use in the summer months. During the winter, it's stored away. This year, it doesn't seem to be cooling as well as it did in the past. Do I need to charge it with freon or something?—Bailey T., Wheeling, W.Va.

A: I'm not sure how old your window-unit air conditioner is, but refrigerant (R-22 freon) doesn't typically need to be replaced in the first couple of years of the unit's life. Additionally, purchasing and handling of freon is now regulated, so you would need to contact a refrigeration professional to check and charge the unit.

Before laying out money for that repair, there are other ways to improve your air conditioner's cooling capability:

- Make sure the unit is mounted properly in the window and isn't tilting downward or upward.
- Check to see if siding, bricks, leaves or other debris are blocking the louvers on the outside of the unit.
- Keep curtains and furniture away from the unit while it's operating, to ensure good airflow into the room.
- Make sure the air-conditioning unit is clean, including the coils and the intake filter on the front of the unit.
- Start the air conditioner at a medium or low fan setting and a moderate temperature, even on hot days. After 20 minutes, lower the temperature to the setting you want.
- Note the time of day that the room feels hottest, and note the position of the sun. Closing the curtains on windows that don't have an air-conditioning unit can reduce the amount of sun-generated heat in the room.
- If you have a ceiling fan, even in another room of the house, use it to your advantage. Reverse the direction of the fan blades (the switch is located on the metal housing for the fan blades) so that air is pulled up by the fan rather than pushed down. Cool air normally sinks, so the fan will stir that air and make the whole house more comfortable.

Send your questions or comments to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Picnic Chicken

This walnut-crusted baked chicken is delicious hot or cold.

Olive oil nonstick cooking spray
1 3/4 cups (about 8 ounces) walnuts
1 cup plain dried bread crumbs
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1/4 teaspoon up to 1/2 teaspoon of ground red pepper, also known as cayenne
2 large eggs
8 medium (4 pounds) bone-in chicken breast halves, skin removed
8 medium (1 3/4 pounds) chicken drumsticks, skin removed
Choice of sauce

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Grease two 15 1/2 by 10 1/2 inch jelly-roll pans with cooking spray.

2. In food processor with knife blade attached, process walnuts with 1/4 cup bread crumbs until walnuts are finely ground. In medium bowl, combine nut mixture, salt, ground red pepper and remaining 3/4 cup bread crumbs; stir until well-mixed. In pie plate, beat eggs.

3. Cut each chicken breast half crosswise into two pieces. One at a time, dip breast pieces and drumsticks in beaten egg, then into walnut mixture to coat evenly, pressing firmly so mixture adheres. Arrange chicken in jelly-roll pans; lightly coat chicken with cooking spray.

4. Bake chicken until golden brown and juices run clear when thickest part of chicken is pierced with tip of knife, 30 to 35 minutes, rotating pans between upper and lower oven racks halfway through baking.

5. Serve chicken hot, or cool slightly, cover and refrigerate to serve cold later. Makes 12 main-dish servings.

- Each serving: About 311 calories, 16g total fat (2g saturated), 113mg cholesterol, 468mg sodium, 10g total carbs, 32g protein.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/.

Three Dipping Sauces

Our walnut-crusted baked chicken is even more delicious when dipped into one of these easy sauces. Cover and refrigerate sauce if not serving right away.

Blue-Cheese Sauce:

In medium bowl, combine 4 ounces blue cheese, crumbled (1 cup); 1/2 cup mayonnaise; 1/2 cup plain lowfat yogurt; 1/2 teaspoon hot pepper sauce; and 1/4 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper until blended. Makes about 1 1/2 cups sauce.

Creamy Honey-Mustard Sauce:

In medium bowl, combine 2/3 cup Dijon mustard, 1/4 cup sour cream, 1/4 cup honey, and 3/4 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce until well-blended. Makes about 1 1/4 cups sauce.

Apricot-Balsamic Sauce:

In medium bowl, combine 1 jar (12 ounces) apricot preserves, 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar, 1 tablespoon soy sauce, and 1/4 teaspoon freshly grated orange peel until well-blended. Makes about 1 1/4 cups sauce. ***(Hearst Communications, Inc.)***

Life & Style

Court throws out FCC penalties for cursing, nudity

WASHINGTON (AP)—Broadcasters anticipating a major constitutional ruling on the government's authority to regulate what can be shown and said on the airwaves instead won only the smallest of Supreme Court victories Thursday.

The justices unanimously threw out fines and other penalties against Fox and ABC television stations that violated the Federal Communications Commission policy regulating curse words and nudity on television airwaves.

Forgoing a broader constitutional ruling, however, the court concluded only that broadcasters could not have known in advance that obscenities uttered during awards show programs on Fox stations and a brief display of nudity on an episode of ABC's "NYPD Blue" could give rise to penalties. ABC and 45 affiliates had been hit with proposed fines totaling nearly $1.24 million.

Broadcasters had argued that the revolution in technology that has brought the Internet, satellite television and cable has made the rules themselves obsolete. The regulations apply only to broadcast channels.

The justices said the FCC is free to revise its indecency policy, which is intended to keep the airwaves free of objectionable material during the hours when children are likely to be watching.

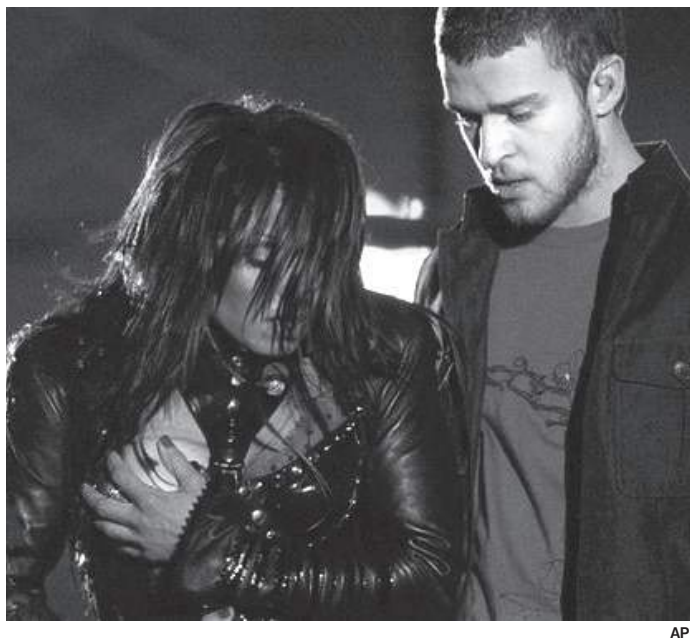
The agency's chairman, Julius Genachowski, said the ruling "appears to be narrowly limited to procedural issues related to actions taken a number of years ago. Consistent with vital First Amendment principles, the FCC will carry out Congress's directive to protect young TV viewers."

It was the second time the court has confronted, but not ruled conclusively on the FCC's policy on isolated expletives. Justice Anthony Kennedy said in his opinion for the court that "it is unnecessary for the court to address the constitutionality of the current policy."

The narrow decision, coupled with the more than five months that elapsed between the argument in January and Thursday's decision, could mean that the justices struggled and failed to reach agreement on a broader outcome.

Broadcasters argue that viewers now have many options, unlike the handful of channels they had available in the 1960s and 1970s when the court last weighed in on indecency on the airwaves. In many cases, viewers don't even know when they are switching between the older broadcast channels and cable.

Still, the regulated broadcast channels provide what the government has called a safe haven of milder programming, and those channels remain dominant, even in the Internet age, the administration argued.



AP

In this Sunday Feb. 1, 2004 file photo, entertainer Janet Jackson, left, covers her breast after her outfit came undone during the half time performance with Justin Timberlake at Super Bowl XXXVIII in Houston.

Paul Smith, a First Amendment expert and partner with the Jenner and Block law firm in Washington, said the court should expect more challenges until it rules definitively.

"The Supreme Court decided to punt on the opportunity to issue a broad ruling on the constitutionality of the FCC indecency policy. The issue will be raised again as broadcasters will continue to try to grapple with the FCC's vague and inconsistent enforcement regime," said Smith, who wrote a brief supporting the broadcasters.

The case arose from a change in the FCC's long-standing policy on curse words.

For many years, the agency did not take action against broadcasters for one-time uses of curse words. But after several awards shows with cursing celebrities in 2002 and 2003, the FCC toughened its policy after it concluded that a one-free-expletive rule did not make sense in the context of keeping the airwaves free of indecency when children are likely to be watching television.

But Kennedy, in the ruling throwing out the fines, said the commission did not adequately explain that under the new policy "a fleeting expletive or a brief shot of nudity could be actionably indecent."

The stepped-up indecency enforcement, which included issuing record fines for violations, also was spurred in part by widespread outrage following Janet Jackson's breast-baring performance during the 2004 Super Bowl halftime show on CBS.

That incident and the FCC's proposed fine of $550,000 are not part of the current case. The government has an appeal pending of a lower court ruling that threw out the fine in that case.

The 2004 Super Bowl took place before the FCC later that year laid out its new policy and the possibility of fines for even one-time utterances of certain words.

Tim Winter, president of the Parents Television Council, said he read the new decision as a "green light" for the FCC to rule against broadcasters in the many pending complaints of indecent material that aired after the FCC explained its new policy.

"Once again the Supreme Court has ruled against the networks in their yearslong campaign to obliterate broadcast decency standards," Winter said.

The material at issue in Thursday's decision included the isolated use of expletives as well as fines against broadcasters who showed a woman's nude buttocks on a 2003 episode of "NYPD Blue."

In December 2002, singer Cher used the phrase "F--- `em" during the Billboard Music Awards show on the Fox television network. A month later, U2 lead singer Bono uttered the phrase "f------ brilliant" during NBC's broadcast of the Golden Globes awards show. During the December 2003 Billboard awards show on Fox, reality show star Nicole Richie said, "Have you ever tried to get cow s--- out of a Prada purse? It's not so f------simple."

But the challenge went beyond just the penalties for the use of fleeting expletives.

The broadcasters wanted the court to free them from all regulation of content around the clock. The court's 1978 Pacifica decision upheld the FCC's reprimand of a New York radio station for airing a George Carlin monologue containing a 12-minute string of expletives in the middle of the afternoon.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said in a brief opinion that she would have overturned the Pacifica ruling, which she called wrong even when it was decided. Justice Sonia Sotomayor did not take part in the current case because she was involved in an earlier version while sitting as an appeals court judge in New York.

The case is FCC v. Fox, 10-1293.

Pixar's 'Brave' gang shares tales of Scotland

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The boozy, blustery Scottish people are getting a Hollywood close-up with "Brave," the latest adventure from the animators who brought you "Toy Story," "Ratatouille," "Finding Nemo" and "Up."

Disney's Pixar Animation have crafted a meticulous vision of Scotland with its mossy crags, rugged peaks and red-haired lads and lasses in their story of a spirited young woman (voiced by Kelly Macdonald) who bucks ancient Celtic tradition.

Macdonald, fellow Scottish voice stars Craig Ferguson and Kevin McKidd, "Brave" director Mark Andrews and producer Katherine Sarafian chatted with The Associated Press about just what it is that puts the Scot into the Scottish land and people:

KELLY MACDONALD

AP: Scottish people get stereotyped as hard drinkers. Is that true?

Macdonald: It's a drinking culture. It really is in Scotland, and also Ireland and the UK in general. There's a big drinking culture in a way that in Italy, there's not. In Italy, they'll drink wine with lunch, and that's just, nobody would do that in Scotland. You wait until you've finished your work and everything at the end of the day, and then you get completely blotto. It's a stereotype for a reason.

AP: How well does "Brave" depict the character of the Scottish?

Macdonald: They really captured the essence and I think the humor of the Scottish people. We sort of put our two bits in, as well, the actors, because we would have dialogue that would be a bit Americanized. ... Even if the words aren't understood, you get the gist of everything. And the male characters, they really captured that certain ego and bluster and kind of puffed-up-ness to them.

MARK ANDREWS

AP: You're wearing a kilt. Is that normal dress at Pixar?

Andrews: I started working at Pixar in 2000, and I came kilt on. So every party, every kind of shindig that's been happening at Pixar, I've always been in my kilt. So it's kind of weird that I've been a Scottish buff, myth and legends buff. This film's right up my alley, so for Pixar to come and ask me to jump on board, take over directing, I didn't see that coming.

AP: What are the Scottish people like?

Andrews: One thing I've noticed in my dealings with them is that they will pick on you. They will try to offend you or say something to kind of get your ire up, to see if you're smart enough to figure out that they're just kidding. If you can realize that I just met this stranger, they're not really insulting me right off the bat, and give them a taste of their own medicine, they usually just laugh it off and go, "OK, this guy is cool." It's like a test.

CRAIG FERGUSON

AP: Do the Scottish people in "Brave" resemble the real thing?

Ferguson: I think they do. What happens is, there are stereotypes about the Scottish people. There's the positive stereotype of the kind of noble warrior poet, and there's the negative stereotype about the angry, belligerent drunk. Both of these have a basis in fact. But what I haven't seen captured too often in films made outside of Scotland is the sense of whimsy and the sense of fun that exists in the Scottish psyche.

KEVIN MCKIDD

AP: "Brave" is animated, but does the landscape feel like the real Scotland?

McKidd: They've really captured that magical, whimsical feeling about Scotland. If you've ever stood on a hillside in Scotland or stood on a ferry going over to one of those beautiful islands as the sun is setting, there's a magic, a patina to Scotland. You understand why people were incredibly superstitious hundreds of years ago. ... I said the other day, I didn't think it would be possible to make an improvement on Scotland, but I think Pixar has actually managed it.

KATHERINE SARAFIAN

AP: If someone going to Scotland asked what to expect, what would you tell them?

Sarafian: I think you'd expect the people to have this steely look on their face. Very, like, unapproachable, like you would never want to go up to one of these people and ask a question. And I learned they've had to brace their faces from the weather. ... Mark tells the story about being there and there was no room at the inn basically, so it's "Excuse me, would you possibly know if there's any rooms?" And then it's "Yes! Of course! My mate down the road has a place! Let me show you the way!" Suddenly, you're family. They really are very friendly and warm and gregarious behind that face.

AP

In this Monday, June 18, 2012 photo, director, Mark Andrews, poses for a portrait during the "Brave" press day at Loews Hollywood Hotel, in Los Angeles.

Baldwin to Letterman: I didn't punch photographer

NEW YORK (AP)—Alec Baldwin denied punching a newspaper photographer during a confrontation outside a marriage license bureau.

"If I had punched him, I would be in jail right now, rightfully so," Baldwin said during an appearance on David Letterman's "Late Show" Wednesday. "I kind of pushed him out of the way because he almost hit me in the face with the camera."

Baldwin's confrontation with New York Daily News photographer Marcus Santos was splashed on the newspaper's front page. Police have confirmed that Santos filed a complaint against Baldwin, saying he was punched while taking pictures of Baldwin and his fiancée on Tuesday.

The New York Press Club condemned Baldwin, saying his actions "should not be tolerated." The club said he is a public figure and that his activities are legitimate subjects of media interest.

Baldwin, to Letterman, said the photographer is a master at getting close enough to a subject that he thinks he is going to be hit by the camera. "They want you to react," he said.

AP

In this photo provided by CBS Entertainment, David Letterman holds a copy of the Daily News as guest Alec Baldwin gestures to the front page showing a photo of his June 6th confrontation with a photographer, during his appearance on the Late Show with David Letterman, in New York, Wednesday, June 20, 2012.

Baldwin said that if he were charged in the case, he would have pressed charges against Santos.

"You do not want to know what would have happened in the jail cell if we were both in the jail cell," he said.

Kiss me Kate: Britain's Prince William hits 30

LONDON (AP)—The man who once was among the world's most eligible bachelors has turned 30—but things are not so bad for Prince William as he celebrates his birthday with family and friends.

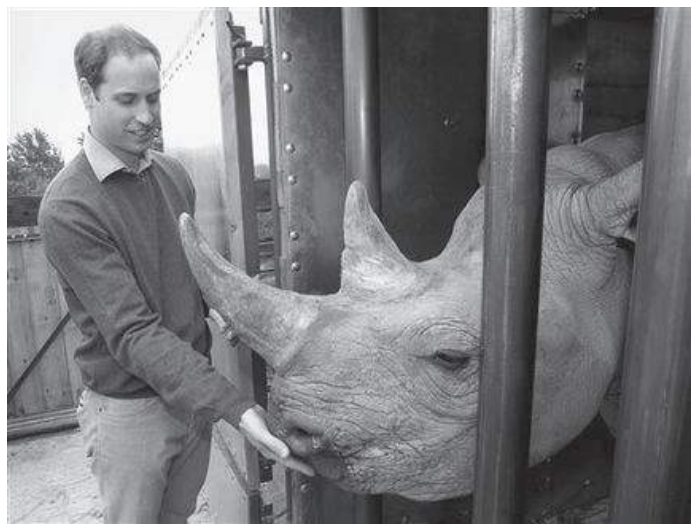
Palace officials say William will mark the milestone in private with his wife, the former Kate Middleton, and perhaps some close friends. They say a low key celebration is planned.

William has been pursuing a military career as a search-and-rescue helicopter pilot while easing into married life and taking on more royal duties. He is stationed at an air base in north Wales and was recently on a temporary deployment in the Falkland Islands in the south Atlantic.

He and his wife have made a number of public appearances in recent weeks, often representing his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, at events to mark her 60 years on the throne, a year-long celebration called the Diamond Jubilee.

He has seemed increasingly comfortable in public, escorting his wife, formally known as the Duchess of Cambridge, to high society soirees and "meet and greet" events.

There has been widespread speculation about the couple possibly starting a family. The talk has been fueled by William indicating that he would like to have children someday.



AP

In this Wednesday June 6, 2012 photo Britain's Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, feeds a 5-year-old black rhino called Zawadi as he visits Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in Port Lympne, southern England.

Along with Prince Harry, they are expected to play a prominent role as special ambassadors at the London Olympics.

William also stands to inherit an estimated 10 million pounds ($15.7 million) on his birthday under the terms of the will of his late mother, Princess Diana.

The precise amount is not known because the current value of the trust set up by his mother has not been made public.

Palace officials decline to comment on William's private finances, and it is possible he may choose to leave the money in a trust.

His brother, Prince Harry, stands to inherit a similar amount when he turns 30 in 2014.

William is second in line for the throne behind his father, Prince Charles.

NYPD: Man swiped Dali painting from art gallery

NEW YORK (AP)—Police are looking for a suspect who stole a $150,000 Salvador Dali painting from a Manhattan art gallery.

Police say the man walked into the Venus Over Manhattan art gallery on Madison Avenue posing as a customer and removed the watercolor and ink painting from the wall, put it in a bag, and fled.

Police say the suspect was wearing a black and white checked shirt and dark colored jeans. It happened on Tuesday.

The 1949 painting, called "Cartel des Don Juan Tenorio," was part of the gallery's inaugural exhibition.

AP

This image provided by the New York Police Department shows a 1949 Salvador Dali painting, called "Cartel des Don Juan Tenorio."

US appeals court upholds Buju Banton's conviction

MIAMI (AP)—A federal appeals court has upheld Jamaican reggae star Buju Banton's conviction on cocaine conspiracy and trafficking charges.

Banton's attorney, David O. Markus, argued that a government informant had improperly entrapped the Grammy-winning singer.

A three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta ruled Thursday that the evidence supported Banton's 2011 conviction in Tampa federal court.

The panel also agreed with the jury's conviction of Banton on a gun possession charge, which the trial judge had dismissed after the verdict was read. The judges rejected Banton's argument that his right to a speedy trial had been violated.

Banton's real name is Mark Myrie. He's serving a 10-year prison sentence. Markus says he believes "a good man is in jail for talking a big game."

Bobby Cannavale to team up with Al Pacino

NEW YORK (AP)—Al Pacino is getting some help in "Glengarry Glen Ross" on Broadway this fall—from Bobby Cannevale.

Producers of the David Mamet revival said Thursday that Cannavale will play Richard "Ricky" Roma, the part Pacino played in a 1992 film version of the same play.

Previews will start on Oct. 16 at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre and an opening night has been set for Nov. 11.

Cannavale, who has appeared on "Nurse Jackie" and won an Emmy in "Will & Grace," was last on Broadway playing a recovering addict opposite Chris Rock in the Tony-nominated play "The Motherf---- With the Hat."

The actor is also slated to star in a new production of Clifford Odets' "The Big Knife." It begins previews on March 22 at the American Airlines Theatre.

Woman guarding her photos needs to change her focus

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I regard my photograph albums as diaries. I don't like to make copies of my pictures for others. My future mother-in-law looked through my albums and chose half a dozen that she would like me to copy for her. I had already given her several snapshots of her son and me, but she wants more.

Abby, I don't understand why she doesn't just take her own pictures of us! I view these pictures as personal items. I don't think they are for others to own and display. Am I wrong? How can I refuse requests for copies of my pictures without offending someone?

L.E. IN CINCINNATI

DEAR L.E.: I think you're viewing this scenario from the wrong perspective. Perhaps your mother-in-law-to-be isn't as comfortable or creative with a camera as you are. If she didn't have warm feelings for you, she wouldn't want to own and display the pictures she's requesting.

Unless you become less territorial and change your attitude, I foresee a troubled relationship with your mother-in-law looming on the horizon. Get the picture?

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for seven years and have two small children. My husband loves me and is good to me. My problem is I no longer feel the same about him anymore.

My former fiance recently came back into my life. I hadn't seen him in eight years, and the moment I saw him all the old feelings came flooding back. We even spent the night together.

I told my husband everything, hoping he would be upset and leave me, but he was forgiving and wants to stay married! Now I don't know what to do—stay with him or be with the one true love of my life. I can't stop thinking about my love. Please help me.

UNHAPPY IN MILWAUKEE

DEAR UNHAPPY: Nowhere in your letter have you indicated that your ex-fiance feels the way you do, and is ready to support you emotionally and financially. You have much to lose if you abandon your husband and children. That's why I'm urging you and your husband to seek counseling to try to reignite your marriage, because right now you are living in a fantasy of what "might have been."

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My neighbor "Marcella" is 84. She's a lovely woman, but she's dependent on me to do everything for her because she's quite senile. Marcella has been in three auto accidents and goes from doctor to doctor for treatment because she forgets who treated her last.

Abby, this poor woman's "children," who are in their 40s and 50s, live 10 minutes away and visit her only twice a year. They knew about Marcella's car accidents and never even showed up at the hospital.

I have my own family to care for and I work. Marcella demands my attention daily to do her grocery shopping, check her furnace or take her to doctor's appointments. I just can't do it all anymore! Your advice?

LOYAL NEIGHBOR IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR LOYAL NEIGHBOR: You are very kind-hearted, but the responsibility for your neighbor's care should be borne by her children. If you don't want to confront Marcella's children directly, phone or write them a letter explaining what you have told me. If they refuse to help, then senior citizen services in your county should be contacted ASAP.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

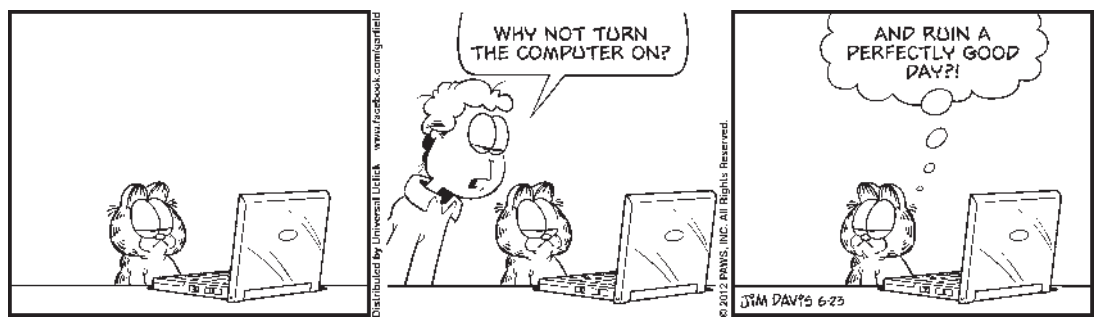
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WELL, LET'S CHECK MY CALENDAR AND SEE WHAT OUR SCHEDULE IS FOR TODAY.
TODAY SAYS, "DO NOTHING," SO DOES TOMORROW, AND EVERY DAY AFTER...ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE END OF AUGUST.
I LIKE THIS ITINERARY!
LET'S GET RIGHT TO IT!

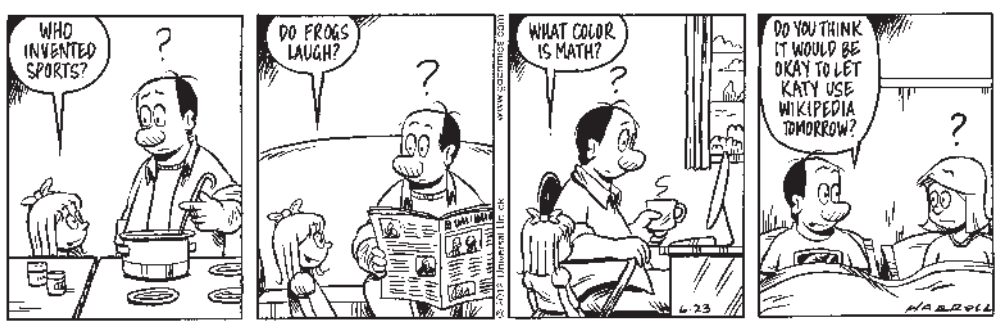
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


WHY NOT TURN THE COMPUTER ON?
AND RUIN A PERFECTLY GOOD DAY?!
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
© 2012 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
JIM DAVIS 6-23

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHO INVENTED SPORTS?
DO FROGS LAUGH?
WHAT COLOR IS MATH?
DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE OKAY TO LET KATY USE WIKIPEDIA TOMORROW?
www.gasmmics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

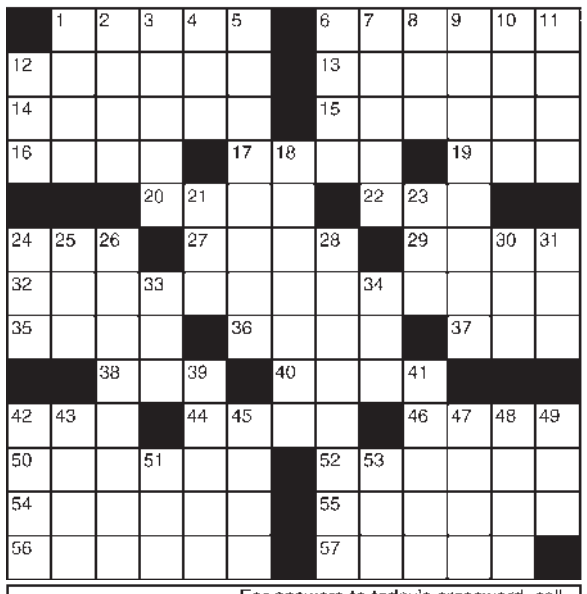
ACROSS
1 Intelligent
6 Haunt
12 Kid's injury
13 Quick look
14 Donkey, often
15 Vacationer's car, possibly
16 Eliot-based musical
17 Haberdasher's rackful
19 "— Believer"
20 Pornography
22 Perched
24 Pair with an air
27 Lobs' paths
29 "Galloping dominoes"
32 In people?
35 "Ice Loves —"
36 Eat
37 Bribe
38 Yoko of music
40 In the offing
42 Core of a PC
44 Autograph
46 In the thick of
50 Smack, so to speak
52 Basic drive
54 Gave out
55 Up
56 Verse
57 Actress Naomi

DOWN
1 Marsh bird
2 Castle protector
3 Chasm
4 Fish eggs
5 — soul (person with angst)
6 Shrek, e.g.
7 Consecrate
8 — Diego
9 Things
10 Con game
11 Actress Ward
12 Telly option
18 Pruritic
21 Buddy
23 Do sum work?
24 Medico
25 Faraway transport?
26 "Certainly"
28 Marc Mezvinsky, to Bill and Hillary
30 — -Magnon
31 Sixth sense
33 Charged bit
34 Journey segment
39 Wicker willow
41 Custom
42 Dale's pal
43 Mexican money
45 Race place
47 Atomizer output
48 Date of destiny
49 Dress in
51 Chic no more
53 Playwright Levin

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	T	M	■	P	A	I	R	■	B	U	L	L
R	H	O	■	E	I	R	E	■	O	R	E	O
C	A	D	I	L	L	A	C	■	U	N	I	T
S	W	E	R	V	E	■	Y	E	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	I	D	■	C	A	D	E	T	S
B	A	I	T	S	■	B	I	T	■	V	I	P
L	U	C	E	■	S	U	E	■	L	I	T	E
O	R	E	■	I	T	S	■	P	Y	L	O	N
C	A	D	D	I	E	■	O	E	R	■	■	■
■	■	■	W	I	N	■	G	R	I	P	P	E
J	A	N	E	■	C	A	D	U	C	E	U	S
O	B	O	E	■	I	D	E	S	■	A	L	P
B	A	R	B	■	L	O	N	E	■	K	E	Y

Yesterday's answer 6-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Melissa Rauch, 32; Jason Mraz, 35; Frances McDormand, 55; Randy Jackson, 56.

Happy Birthday: A progressive, proactive approach to challenges and new interests will help you find peace of mind, success and new possibilities that keep you moving forward. Preparation and organization will help you tie up loose ends and eliminate future setbacks. Use your imagination to attract creative helpers. Your numbers are 7, 13, 23, 25, 37, 46, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't hesitate to make a move or to share your feelings with family, friends or your lover. Much can be accomplished with regard to relationships and sharing quality time with people you find motivating. Reconnect with someone from your past. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20- May 20*): You are best to keep secrets to yourself and avoid anyone trying to pry into your business. Consider your talents and skills and you will find a way to turn what you have to offer into a profit. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Make your surroundings more inviting, comfortable or user-friendly. Avoid impulse decisions that may affect your financial situation. Keep your lifestyle simple, small and within your budget. Greater appreciation of a partnership will unfold. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Aggressive action at home will help you accomplish your goals and set you on a path to personal success. An imaginative approach to the way you live your life or the interests you decide to pursue will broaden your circle of friends. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take a mini-trip or visit a place in your area that you haven't experienced before. The inspiration you gain will lead to some great ideas that can benefit you as well as others who face similar dilemmas. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): An unexpected financial change due to a settlement or other monies owed will help with your expenses. Take the initiative to embark on an expedition that will bring you greater knowledge regarding your professional options. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take greater interest in activities that can improve your knowledge and skills and help you understand people from different backgrounds. Socializing will enhance your love life. Offering assistance will lead to an unexpected alliance. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Emotional matters must be handled properly to avoid discord. Compliments and honest, friendly and sincere gestures will enhance an important relationship. Look for ways to make an unusual change at home that is conducive to creative productivity. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll command attention with your outgoing personality. Spend time with people you enjoy most and they will be ready and willing to take on whatever plans you put into play. A challenge will spark your interest. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let emotional matters turn into a costly affair. Put more thought into long-term consequences before you decide to make a change that can affect your current relationship. A joint venture can bring greater prosperity. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Home is where the heart is, and making your place more conducive to both personal and professional success is where your efforts must be directed. Love is on the rise, and greater financial security is heading your way. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You may be asked to get involved in a joint financial venture that is questionable. Find a way to help without spending money. You aren't likely to be given all the facts required to make a sound judgment. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have unusual ideas and interests. You are philosophical and intellectually curious.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2			4				9
7						2		
				9	3		8	
			6			5		
6		4		3		9		2
		7			1			
	3		4	8				
		8						7
5				1			6	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	8	1	4	3	2	6	7	5
2	6	5	7	1	9	8	3	4
3	7	4	8	6	5	1	2	9
6	9	8	3	2	1	5	4	7
7	1	2	6	5	4	9	8	3
4	5	3	9	7	8	2	6	1
5	3	9	2	8	7	4	1	6
1	2	7	5	4	6	3	9	8
8	4	6	1	9	3	7	5	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/22

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TEDDY BEARS Solution: 10 letters

P	T	C	C	R	U	X	P	I	N	R	A	Y	D	S
I	E	O	H	O	S	P	I	T	A	L	S	Y	A	R
C	D	R	Y	I	T	A	L	K	I	N	G	T	E	A
N	D	D	S	S	L	T	T	H	E	O	D	O	R	E
I	Y	U	I	O	P	D	O	L	O	V	E	O	H	B
C	L	R	N	P	N	O	R	N	P	E	G	S	T	R
O	D	O	G	A	P	A	N	E	B	L	Y	N	F	O
M	D	Y	I	D	G	E	L	S	N	O	U	E	O	O
F	U	I	N	O	I	D	T	I	O	U	O	S	S	S
O	C	U	G	N	F	P	Y	I	Z	R	M	Ⓚ	H	E
R	G	O	N	O	T	U	I	D	M	E	S	Ⓘ	S	V
T	L	I	W	I	Y	D	N	N	M	E	D	Ⓓ	N	E
G	W	O	O	L	A	S	C	O	M	A	E	Ⓢ	O	L
H	A	I	R	T	L	E	R	U	P	E	R	T	U	T
Y	B	A	B	O	P	Y	N	D	E	F	F	U	T	S

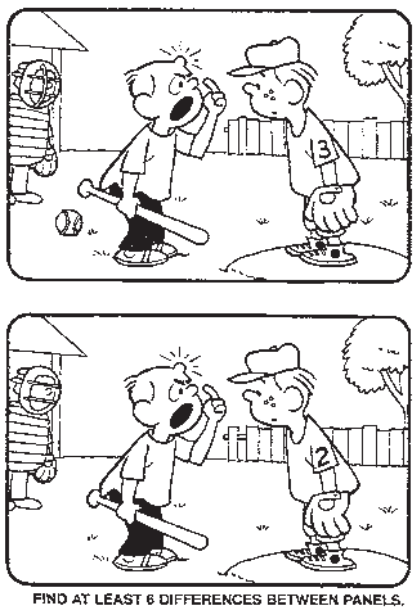
© 2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 6/23

Baby, Bears, Books, Brown, Children, Comfort, Corduroy, Cotton, Cuddly, Eyes, Gift, Gund, Hair, Hospitals, Kids, Logo, Love, Memory, Personalized, Picnic, Play, Plush, Pooh, Pudsey, Roosevelt, Rupert, Ruxpin, Seam, Singing, Snout, Soft, Song, Sooty, Sponsors, Stuffed, Talking, Teddy, Theodore, Thread, Time, Toys, Ty Inc., Velour, Winnie, Wool, Yarn, Yogi

Yesterday's Answer: Vanilla

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

Differences: 1. Mask is different. 2. Ball is missing. 3. Bat is shorter. 4. Fence board is missing. 5. Number is different. 6. Glove is different.

Wishing Well®

6	2	6	5	6	7	4	3	5	7	6	4	5
F	K	E	G	E	S	A	Y	I	M	L	S	F
6	5	3	7	8	5	3	4	5	8	6	7	8
I	T	O	O	A	F	U	U	R	S	N	O	U
3	7	2	7	2	5	3	5	2	4	3	8	7
B	T	E	H	E	O	E	M	P	N	C	N	S
6	7	6	5	8	3	4	3	7	5	3	8	4
G	A	S	A	N	O	N	M	I	F	E	Y	Y
3	8	6	5	3	2	3	4	7	4	2	5	7
D	O	R	R	Y	C	N	D	L	A	H	I	I
3	2	6	4	8	5	7	8	6	5	7	6	5
A	I	U	Y	U	E	N	T	N	N	G	D	D
2	3	8	6	8	6	8	3	8	6	3	2	2
N	M	L	E	O	E	O	I	K	P	C	U	P

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

© 2012 King Features Synd., Inc. All rights reserved

Super Crossword

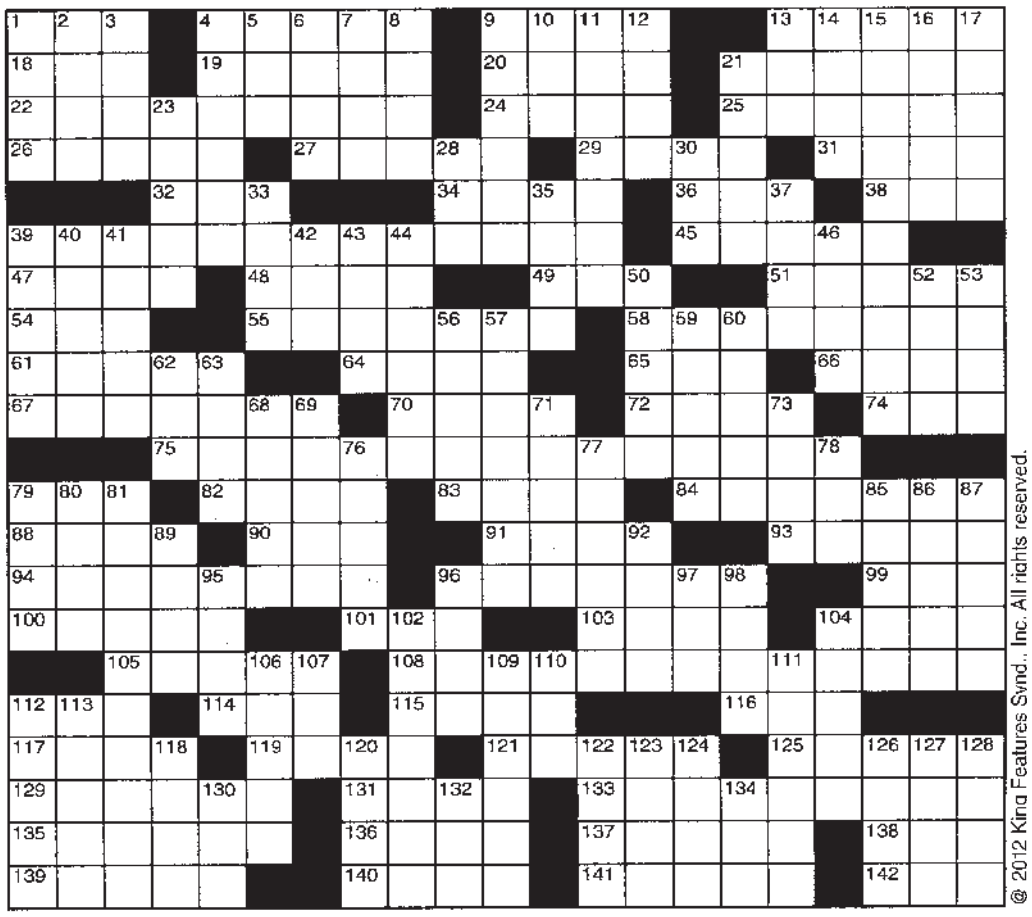
SWEET GNAW-THINGS

ACROSS

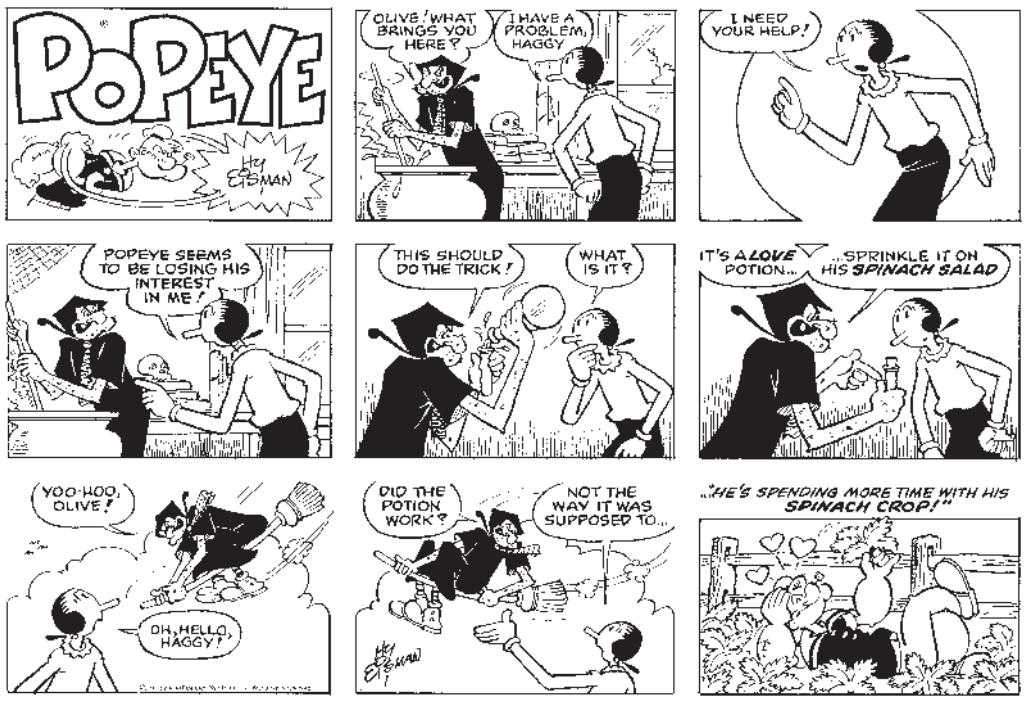
1 Pugilistic poke
4 Silenced a squeak
9 Fuel source
13 "Turandot" tenor
18 Heady quaff
19 Savanna sight
20 Lhasa —
21 Arbus apparatus
22 Rodent's favorite Monkees tune?
24 Lost in thought
25 Nuclear
26 Brimming
27 Join up
29 Take into account
31 Hook's mate
32 — reaction
34 Diva Ponselle
36 Moon crawler
38 Relative of -ator
39 Rodent cheese-cake?
45 Laundry problem
47 Frigga's fellow
48 Young boxers
49 Relished a roast
51 "Taras Bulba" author
54 Emulate Pinocchio
55 Brandy cocktail
58 Protect with plastic
61 Resident
64 "Yours, Mine and —" ('68 film)
65 Keatsian creation
66 Redact
67 "The Bartered Bride" composer
70 Serenade accompaniment
72 TV's "South —"
74 Road curve
75 Rodent's educational level?
79 Dit's cousin
82 Read quickly
83 Actress Virna
84 Peeper protectors
88 Oomph
90 Tokyo, once
91 Like some cellars
93 It may suit you
94 Closet freshener
96 Calculator features
99 Winter hazard
100 Trattoria treat
101 TV chef Martin
103 "— Shuffle" ('77 song)
104 Seaweed product
105 Bobby's flashlight
108 Rodent's Olympic motto?
112 Broad st.
114 "Gotcha!"
115 Article
116 "— Night" ('58 hit)
117 Apt rhyme for squirm
119 "L'—, c'est moi"
121 Matches
125 Inception
129 Cartoonist Charles
131 Writer Charles
133 Fictional rodent?
135 Rink rental
136 List ender
137 "Peer Gynt" composer
138 Psychic Geller
139 Veronica of "Hill Street Blues"
140 Surrender
141 Big revolver?
142 Sticky stuff

DOWN

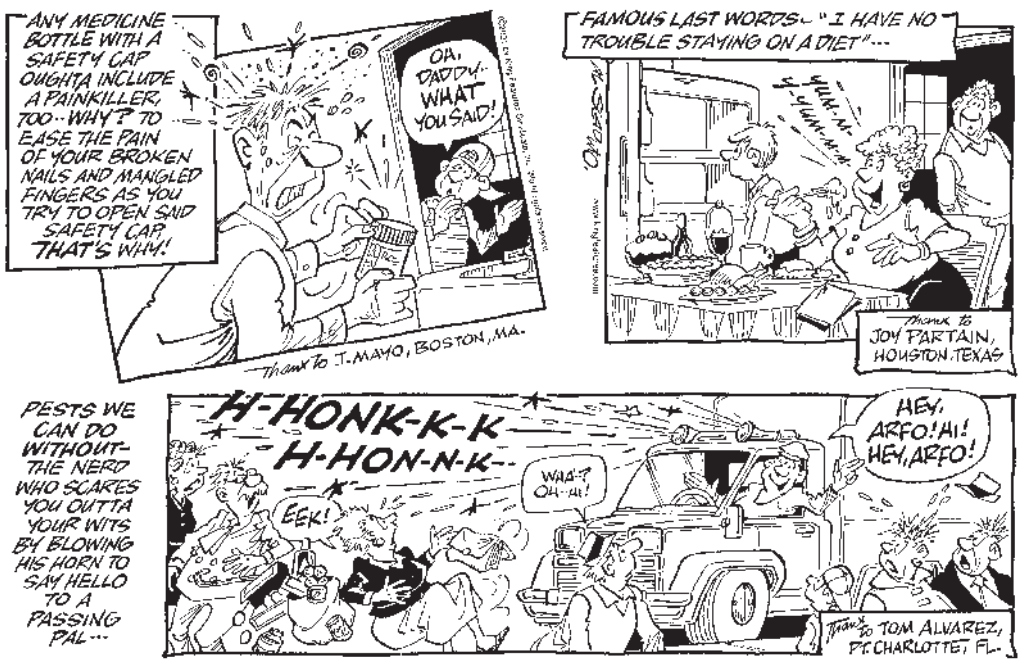
1 Secure spot
2 — mater
3 Rosary part
4 Speak freely
5 Roth —
6 Exist
7 Temptation location
8 Earl — Biggers
9 Living room
10 Antipollution grp.
11 "The — Jungle" ('50 film)
12 Carry
13 Purrfect pet?
14 Grandpa McCoy
15 Rodent refreshment?
16 Pisces follower
17 Sapphire side
21 Future officer
23 "We've Only Just —" ('70 hit)
28 Hockey legend
30 Urban transport
33 Sugar amts.
35 Barbecue
37 Christmas visitors
39 Voting venue
40 Turn of phrase
41 Sib's kid
42 On the — vive (alert)
43 Summer coif
44 Tristan's tootsie
46 Actress Skye
50 Take the honey and run
52 Mayberry town drunk
53 "Why don't we?"
56 Sadistic
57 In the saddle
59 Saying
60 Cheerful
62 Bk. convenience
63 Neighbor of Thailand
68 Used the microwave
69 Digression
71 Prose piece
73 Boat bottom
76 Atlanta campus
77 Indentation
78 Mintz or Whitney
79 Johnny of "Chocolat"
80 Soap additive
81 City of rodents?
85 Architect Jones
86 Window dressing?
87 McCarthy's trunkmate
89 West. alliance
92 Brace
95 Asta's mistress
96 Snarl
97 Banned pesticide
98 London district
102 Shake up
104 Actor's actor?
106 Spassky's game
107 Pillbox, e.g.
109 Bit of a beach
110 Medical grp.
111 TV's "Eight Is —"
112 About to sink
113 Screwdriver ingredient
118 Spouse
120 Composer Wilder
122 Prod
123 Binchy's "— Road"
124 Tend the sauce
126 Wallop
127 Architect Saarinen
128 Small combo
130 Gibson or Tillis
132 Unbalanced
134 Wager

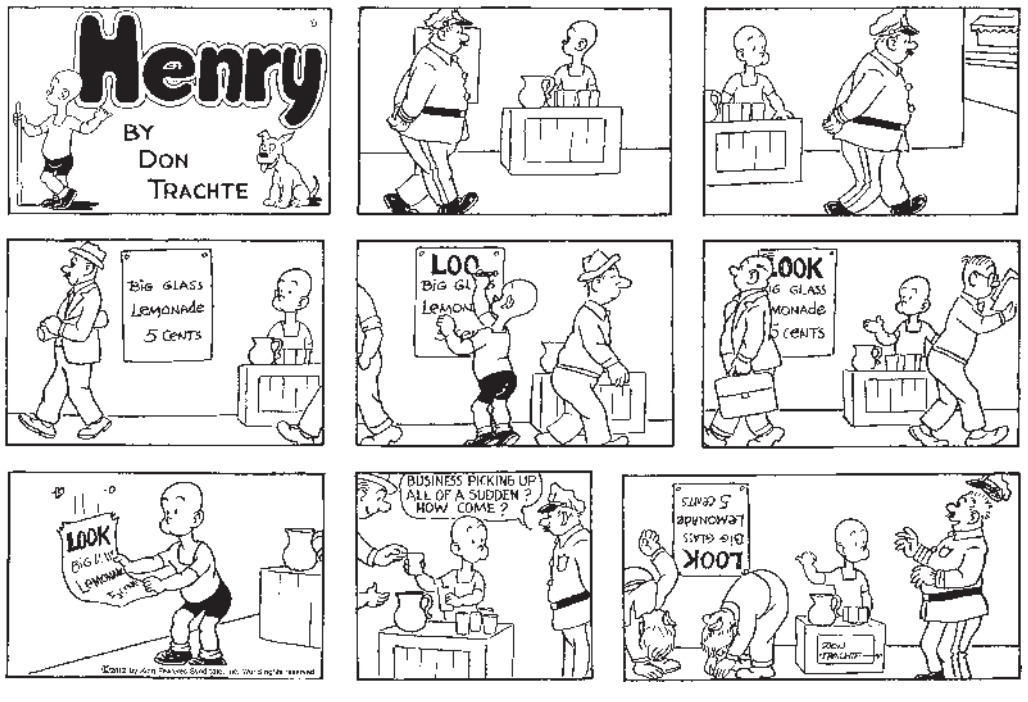


© 2012 King Features Synd., Inc. All rights reserved.


POPEYE
Hey Eisman
OLIVE! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
I HAVE A PROBLEM, HAGGY
I NEED YOUR HELP!
POPEYE SEEMS TO BE LOSING HIS INTEREST IN ME!
THIS SHOULD DO THE TRICK!
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S A LOVE POTION...
...SPRINKLE IT ON HIS SPINACH SALAD
YOO-HOO, OLIVE!
OH, HELLO, HAGGY!
DID THE POTION WORK?
NOT THE WAY IT WAS SUPPOSED TO...
"HE'S SPENDING MORE TIME WITH HIS SPINACH CROP!"

They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto


ANY MEDICINE BOTTLE WITH A SAFETY CAP OUGHTA INCLUDE A PAINKILLER, TOO.. WHY? TO EASE THE PAIN OF YOUR BROKEN NAILS AND MANGLED FINGERS AS YOU TRY TO OPEN SAID SAFETY CAP. THAT'S WHY!
OH, DADDY.. WHAT YOU SAID!
Thanx to T. MAYO, BOSTON, MA.
FAMOUS LAST WORDS... "I HAVE NO TROUBLE STAYING ON A DIET"...
YUM-M-M-M-M-M
Thanx to JOY FARTAIN, HOUSTON, TEXAS
PESTS WE CAN DO WITHOUT- THE NERD WHO SCARES YOU OUTTA YOUR WITS BY BLOWING HIS HORN TO SAY HELLO TO A PASSING PAL...
H-HONK-K-K
H-HON-N-K--
EEK!
WAA-? OH-HI!
HEY, ARFO! HI! HEY, ARFO!
Thanx to TOM ALVAREZ, FT. CHARLOTTE, FL.



Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

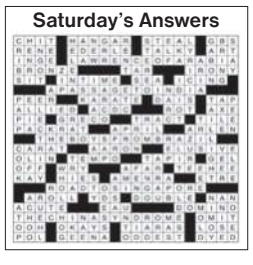
1. ADVERTISEMENTS: What product's slogan is "When it rains, it pours"?
2. ANATOMY: Where is a more common name for the tympanic membrane?
3. MUSIC: Who had a hit album in the 1970s titled "Innervisions"?
4. LITERATURE: Which of Shakespeare's plays contains the line, "By the pricking of my thumbs, /something wicked this way comes"?
5. MYTHOLOGY: What country was ruled by Midas, the king with the golden touch?
6. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Portugal?
7. TELEVISION: What famous TV couple of the 1950s lived at the fictional address 623 East 68th Street?
8. U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is "The Grand Canyon State"?
9. POETRY: What is a heroic couplet?
10. HISTORY: Who was Jesse James' brother and partner in crime?

© 2012 King Features Synd., Inc.

Answers

1. Morton Salt
2. Eartrum
3. Stevie Wonder
4. "Macbeth"
5. Phrygia
6. Lisbon
7. Lucy and Ricky Ricardo
8. Arizona
9. Two rhymed 10-syllable lines of poetry
10. Frank James

Saturday's Answers



The Spats — by Jeff Pickering

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

JOB VACANCY ANOUNCEMENT

GOOD CARE, LLC

(1) Insurance Claim Agent

MUST HAVE 2 YEARS OR MORE EXPERIENCE.

(1) Japanese Speaking Interpreter

MUST BE FLUENT IN WRITING AND READING JAPANESE AND ENGLISH.

Please call 234-1191

Century Travel Agency dba Century Tours
is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Tour Guide (2)

Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with at least 2 years of Tour Operations, Sales or Service related job experience. Must be able to speak Chinese. Ability to read, write, and understand Mandarin is an advantage. Must have excellent communication, organizational and selling skills. A valid driver's license is required along with a clean driving record. Availability to work on evenings, holidays and weekends is also required.

Applications can be obtained at Century Tours' HR Office at Kanoa Resort formerly Saipan Grand Hotel in Susupe. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than June 27, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Travel Agency dba Century Tours is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

LOOKING FOR JOB

I am a Chinese Male, Simple English. I can be a driver, farmer, laborer and can also do general maintenance. Tel. 287-6686.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Massage Shop on Guam. sale for business (not real estate) well populated area. $10,000. call 671-727-8447 or send inquiry to tropicisla@hotmail.com

SERVICES

Check out Saipanevo.com
And enter to win cool stuff.
Website helpline 788-1658

LOOKING TO BUY VEHICLES

We're buying '95 & Up used cars! Transaction only within 30 mins. Call 287-8688 or visit DPA CAR MART in San Antonio.

Seriously looking for used cars Year 2003 & up 4 cylinder & truck. Good condition. We pay cash! Call 287-7676

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For $200.00 / month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

C & R Corporation - Job Vacancy Announcement

PURCHASING OFFICER

NEED TO HAVE 2 - 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE
RATE: $5.55 - $6.75
SALARY WILL BE BASE ON EXPERIENCE

PLEASE E-MAIL RESUME AT CANDR@PTICOM.COM

Over 100 food stamp vouchers on hold
Businesses slam "excessive" $500 fire re-inspection, $500 permit fees
Are you ready to Ace it?

WHATZIT Solution: Hung out to dry

Overdrive
Mustang Boss 302
a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras
Life&Style
Davis, Dujardin win lead honors at SAG awards
Mary Tyler Moore honored for lifetime achievement
Pastimes
SUDOKU
Sports
Rollers eyeing two trips to PH in 201
'King of Aces' on island through January
SBCR welcomed nine new members in 2011
Subscribe to the CNMI's
First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

HU NG
DE MIDIFYI

©WHATZIT? © 2012 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Espinosa hit lifts Nationals over Rays, 5-2

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tampa Bay reliever Joel Peralta—playing with a suspension pending—served up a tiebreaking, two-run double to Washington's Danny Espinosa in the sixth inning which lifted the Nationals to a 5-2 win over the Rays in interleague play Thursday.

Earlier in the day, Peralta (0-3) learned that he had been penalized by Major League Baseball for eight games after being caught with pine tar in his glove on Tuesday. Peralta is appealing the decision and can keep playing until a final decision is reached.

Washington starter Gio Gonzalez (9-3) pitched six innings on a steamy night.

AP

Washington Nationals' Adam LaRoche (25) and Jesus Flores (26) celebrate after they both scored on a double by Danny Espinosa during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays, Thursday, June 21, 2012, in Washington.

Athletics 4, Dodgers 1

In Oakland, Yoenis Cespedes hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning for his first career game-ending shot as Oakland beat Los Angeles for a three-game sweep.

Cespedes connected off Josh Lindblom (2-1), sending a drive just inside the left-field foul pole. Oakland has won eight of nine after holding the National League's best team to eight hits over the three-game series.

Oakland's Ryan Cook (2-1) took the win after relieving Travis Blackley, who allowed only one run in eight innings.

Tigers 2, Cardinals 1, 10 innings

In Detroit, Quintin Berry hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the 10th inning to give Detroit a win over St. Louis.

Ramon Santiago and Jhonny Peralta hit one-out singles off Victor Marte (0-1), who then grazed Austin Jackson's jersey with a pitch. Berry followed with a base hit up the middle through a drawn-in infield.

Joaquin Benoit (1-1) got the win. The Detroit bullpen shut out St. Louis after Jacob Turner allowed a run and four hits in five innings.

Prince Fielder homered for the Tigers.

Red Sox 6, Marlins 5

In Boston, Daniel Nava singled in the go-ahead run to cap a three-run eighth inning which lifted Boston to a tight win over Miami, completing a sweep.

Boston tied the game with a two-run homer by Will Middlebrooks—who drove in four runs—off Edward Mujica (0-3). Ryan Kalish then singled, raced to third on a groundout and scored on Nava's single up the middle.

Red Sox closer Alfredo Aceves pitched a perfect ninth for his 18th save in 21 opportunities. Scott Atchison (2-0) allowed one hit over the seventh and eighth.

Boston won its fifth straight game and matched its season-best mark of three games over .500.

The Marlins have lost 13 of 15.

Pirates 9, Twins 1

In Pittsburgh, James McDonald pitched his first career complete game, steering Pittsburgh past Minnesota.

McDonald (6-3) allowed one run and no walks with five strikeouts, lowering his ERA to 2.19. He has allowed one run or fewer in nine of his 14 starts this season.

Garrett Jones had an RBI single in the first inning for the Pirates and a two-run homer that made it 8-1 in the seventh. Pedro Alvarez homered two batters later. Rod Barajas had a two-run homer in the sixth.

Twins pitcher Liam Hendriks (0-4) remained winless in 10 career starts. He was charged with six runs.

Rockies 4, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Chris Nelson hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning as Colorado beat Philadelphia.

Wilin Rosario added a two-run shot in the ninth to help the Rockies snap a four-game losing streak.

Colorado's Josh Roenicke (2-0) got the win in relief.

Phillies starter Vance Worley (3-4) had allowed just three singles through 6 2-3 innings before Nelson's homer.

NFL denies witness retractions in bounty probe

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The NFL denies accusations it covered up retractions made by key witnesses in its bounty investigation, or that Commissioner Roger Goodell has placed gag orders on Saints employees and others who could help punished players clear their names.

Lawyer Peter Ginsberg, who represents suspended Saints player Jonathan Vilma, made the accusations when punished players appeared earlier this week for an appeal hearing, a full transcript of which has been obtained by The Associated Press.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello says claims of a gag order are "completely untrue," and that no potential witnesses were instructed by the league to stay away from Monday's hearing.

The transcript also shows that the NFL Players Association formally asked Goodell to recuse himself from ongoing appeal proceedings, contending that he is incapable of ruling "without the appearance of bias."

"The commissioner has publicly appeared on television and in other (forums) defending the discipline," NFLPA attorney Jeffrey Kessler said. "We would ask that the commissioner step down, to the extent that these proceedings continue, as the decision maker and that a neutral decision maker be appointed in his place."

The early portions of the transcript detail a series of verbal jousts that Ginsberg sought to deliver to the commissioner before leaving the appeal hearing early in protest.

In discussing witnesses he has been unable to speak with, Ginsberg told Goodell, "You have made threats to keep them from talking to us. You have refused to have them even participate in today's proceedings."

Ginsberg and the NFLPA had asked the NFL to compel several witnesses to appear at the appeal hearing, including Saints head coach Sean Payton, assistant head coach Joe Vitt, general manager Mickey Loomis, former defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, and former defensive assistant Mike Cerullo.

While the NFL declined to require anyone to attend the hearing, Aiello said the players and their representatives "were free to bring any witnesses of their choosing, including any coaches if they agreed to appear."

Ginsberg further asserted that Williams and Cerullo offered retractions of some of their initial statements to the NFL in the investigation, and that the league has neglected to share that information. Aiello denied such retractions were ever made.

Ginsberg also accused the NFL of distorting evidence introduced at the appeals hearing, including an email from marketing agent Mike Ornstein to Williams, who the NFL says ran a bounty program from 2009 to 2011.

In the email, Ornstein tells Williams he gave him "1,500 last week, I will give you another 1,500 the next four game (sic) and the final 2,000 the last 4." Ginsberg asserts that the NFL included the email as evidence even after Ornstein told Goodell the email related to a Gregg Williams charity.

The NFL declined to comment beyond its assertion in Monday's hearing that the total amount of money the email discusses—$5,000—matches the amount listed next to Ornstein's name on a note outlining pledges made as "seed money" to a performance incentive pool that rewarded big plays as well as injurious hits.

Ginsberg told the commissioner he imposed a "misplaced punishment" which "cast a shadow not only on Mr. Vilma personally and professionally, but, I dare say, on the NFL and on the office of the commissioner in engaging in these proceedings."

He then concluded his statement by urging Goodell to "rescind any punishment against Mr. Vilma and to apologize in public for what you have done."

Not long after making those statements on the record, Ginsberg, who is also representing Vilma in a separate defamation lawsuit against Goodell in federal court in New Orleans, left the hearing with Vilma in protest, They did not return for an afternoon session.

Later in the hearing, Kessler said the remaining three punished players—Saints defensive end Will Smith, Green Bay defensive lineman Anthony Hargrove, and linebacker Scott Fujita—would listen to the remainder of the hearing, but would decline to participate because they believed the proceeding lacked elements required to meet the standard of a "fair hearing" under the NFL's current labor agreement.

"The essence of that hearing contains certain matters that are being denied to the players here," Kessler said. "In particular, we're not being given the opportunity to confront and cross-examine the actual witnesses who have evidence on this."

Kessler made an additional point that the NFL has already stated publicly that Williams, the defensive coordinator, ran the Saints' incentive pool, and that punishing employees for something their employers instructed them to do is "contrary to established legal principles."

The NFL continued its portion of the hearing in which it reviewed evidence against the players.

Goodell did not recuse himself and it did not appear he would consider doing so after league attorney Adolpho Birch responded to Kessler that an arbitrator already ruled Goodell has the authority to hear the appeal.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	41	27	.603	–
Baltimore	39	30	.565	2 1/2
Tampa Bay	38	31	.551	3 1/2
Boston	36	33	.522	5 1/2
Toronto	35	34	.507	6 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	36	32	.529	–
Chicago	36	33	.522	1/2
Detroit	34	35	.493	2 1/2
Kansas City	31	36	.463	4 1/2
Minnesota	27	41	.397	9

West Division

Texas	43	27	.614	–
Los Angeles	38	32	.543	5
Oakland	34	36	.486	9
Seattle	30	41	.423	13 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	40	27	.597	–
New York	38	32	.543	3 1/2
Atlanta	37	32	.536	4
Miami	33	36	.478	8
Philadelphia	33	38	.465	9

Central Division

Cincinnati	38	30	.559	–
Pittsburgh	36	32	.529	2
St. Louis	35	35	.500	4
Milwaukee	32	37	.464	6 1/2
Houston	28	41	.406	10 1/2
Chicago	24	45	.348	14 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	42	28	.600	–
San Francisco	38	32	.543	4
Arizona	34	35	.493	7 1/2
Colorado	26	42	.382	15
San Diego	24	46	.343	18

TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

FIRST ROUND

David Mathis	34-30–64
Nathan Green	34-31–65
Will Claxton	31-34–65
Fredrik Jacobson	31-34–65
Jerry Kelly	34-32–66
Gary Christian	33-33–66
Roland Thatcher	35-31–66
Tim Clark	33-33–66
Rocco Mediate	34-32–66
Webb Simpson	33-33–66
Bubba Watson	32-34–66
Chez Reavie	34-32–66
Tommy Gainey	35-31–66
Kevin Kisner	33-33–66
Brandt Jobe	35-32–67
Ken Duke	32-35–67
Chris DiMarco	34-33–67
Greg Chalmers	31-36–67
Charley Hoffman	34-33–67
Matt Kuchar	36-31–67
Roberto Castro	33-34–67
Brian Davis	33-34–67
Aaron Baddeley	33-34–67
Stephen Gangluff	31-36–67
Nick O'Hern	31-37–68
Ian Poulter	33-35–68
Brian Gay	34-34–68
Derek Lamely	34-34–68
Camilo Villegas	34-34–68
Billy Mayfair	34-34–68
Seung-Yul Noh	31-37–68
Robert Karlsson	35-33–68
Kevin Streelman	34-34–68
James Driscoll	35-33–68
Garth Mulroy	33-35–68
Graham DeLaet	32-36–68
John Rollins	35-33–68
Patrick Sheehan	31-37–68
Marc Leishman	34-34–68
Stuart Appleby	32-36–68
Robert Allenby	34-34–68
Keegan Bradley	34-34–68
Harris English	33-36–69
Kris Blanks	35-34–69
Johnson Wagner	35-34–69
Louis Oosthuizen	33-36–69
Padraig Harrington	35-34–69
Shane Bertsch	35-34–69
Jeff Maggert	35-34–69
Brendon Todd	33-36–69
Blake Adams	34-35–69
Cameron Beckman	35-34–69
Cameron Tringale	36-33–69
J.J. Killeen	36-33–69
Mark Anderson	33-36–69
Danny Lee	33-36–69
Billy Hurley III	34-35–69
J.B. Holmes	36-34–70
Bo Van Pelt	33-37–70
Hunter Mahan	34-36–70
John Huh	34-36–70
Sean O'Hair	37-33–70
Heath Slocum	32-38–70
John Peterson	33-37–70
Brian Harman	36-34–70
Russell Knox	35-35–70
Charlie Wi	33-37–70
Kyle Stanley	36-34–70
Lucas Glover	35-35–70
Vaughn Taylor	35-35–70
Jamie Lovemark	37-33–70
Steven Bowditch	36-34–70
William McGirt	36-34–70
Tim Petrovic	37-34–71
Colt Knost	37-34–71
Billy Horschel	35-36–71
Arjun Atwal	35-36–71
Y.E. Yang	36-35–71
Bart Bryant	34-37–71
Vijay Singh	37-34–71
Bryce Molder	37-34–71
Rory Sabbatini	38-33–71
Chris Stroud	36-35–71
Troy Matteson	36-35–71
Daniel Summerhays	33-38–71
Miguel Angel Carballo	33-38–71
Chris Couch	34-38–72
Hunter Haas	34-38–72
Chad Campbell	33-39–72
Rod Pampling	34-38–72
John Mallinger	36-36–72
Ricky Barnes	37-35–72
John Merrick	33-39–72
K.T. Kim	35-37–72
Patrick Rodgers	37-35–72
Bryden Macpherson	35-37–72
Neal Lancaster	35-37–72
Steve Marino	37-35–72
Sung Kang	34-38–72
Tim Herron	35-37–72
Zach Johnson	35-37–72
Brendon de Jonge	37-35–72
Ryan Moore	38-34–72
Bud Cauley	35-37–72
Mathew Goggin	33-39–72
Richard H. Lee	36-36–72
Fran Quinn	35-37–72
J.J. Henry	35-38–73
Jhonattan Vegas	35-38–73
Bill Lunde	35-38–73
Patrick Reed	36-37–73

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mathis' ace launches him to lead at Travelers

CROMWELL, Conn. (AP)—David Mathis hoped to start strong at the Travelers Championship after missing the cut last week in the U.S. Open.

The 38-year-old Mathis birdied his first hole, then holed out from 158 yards on the par-3 11th hole. He knocked in a 49-foot birdie putt on his third, was at 6-under par after six holes, and fished with a 6-under 64 for a one-shot lead.

"It was an awesome start," said Mathis, who has never finished better than eighth in a PGA Tour event. "I was hitting a lot of great shots (later), and I guess it felt like a lull compared to how I started."

Nathan Green, Will Claxton and defending champion Fredrik Jacobson shot 65 on a day that saw temperatures soar into the upper 90s.

U.S. Open champion Webb Simpson and Masters winner Bubba Watson played together and finished in a group of 10 at 66. The third member of the threesome, PGA champion Keegan Bradley, shot a 68.

"We were relaxed all day," Simpson said. "Bubba is my Presidents Cup partner. We always laugh together. And I've played a lot of golf with Keegan this year. He's a good friend. We had a lot of fun feeding off each other, and luckily, we all played well."

Mathis' ace was the shot of the day. He said he was just trying to cut a nine iron close to the pin and hit it exactly where he aimed.

"It kind of bounced and stumbled right and went right in the hole," he said.

Green teed off at 6:50 a.m., well before heat and humidity set in, setting the early mark with a 65. Claxton opened his round with a birdie and an eagle, but finished with a bogey on 18.

"To start out birdie-eagle, that's huge," Claxton said. "I obviously had the driver going. I drove the ball well today. It wasn't as difficult as I thought it might be."

Jacobson, who picked up his only PGA Tour win at the event a year ago, spent much of the day atop the leaderboard before a double bogey on 16 dropped him to 5 under and into a three-way tie for second.

"I knew it was going to be challenging in this heat, and if you start to miss a few shots, it can get to you," he said. "So I was just happy to get through this day."

One of Jacobson's playing partner's, former Masters champion Zach Johnson, also had a tough finish. He was 3 under when he hit a drive over the green at 15. He made a 6 there and a seven on the par-4 17th, where he tried to putt from the fringe, and needed three more after making it to the green.

A gallery of fans five and six deep greeted Simpson, Watson, and Bradley on the first tee, and many followed them throughout what all three said was a relaxed round.

"Any time you can play with those guys, it's fun," Watson said. "We learn from each other. We watch each other. We're making some jokes out there. We were having a good time. It was good."

JAMES

From Page 28

Wade and Chris Bosh for good with 3:01 remaining for a round of hugs and the start for a party he's been waiting for since arriving in the NBA out of high school as the No. 1 pick of the 2003 draft. James hopped up and down in the final minutes, shared a long hug with opponent Kevin Durant, and then smiled as he watched the confetti rain down from the rafters.

"It's about damn time. It's about damn time," James said.

He was a choker last year, the guy who came up small in the fourth quarter, mocked for "shrinking" in the moment while playing with what he called "hatred" in trying to prove his critics wrong.

He came to Miami seeking an easier road to the finals but found it tougher than hoped, the Heat coming up empty last year and nearly getting knocked out in the Eastern Conference finals this time by Boston. Facing elimination there, James poured in 45 points on the road to force a Game 7 and the Heat won it at home.

"It was the hardest thing I've ever done as a basketball player," James said. "You just put a lot of hard work into it and you hope that one day it will pay off for you."

This time, with a chance to clinch, the Heat took control in the second quarter, briefly lost it and blew the game open again in the third behind their role players, James content to pass to wide-open 3-point shooters while the Thunder focused all their attention on him.

The disappointment of losing to Dallas in six games a year ago vanished in a blowout of the demoralized Thunder, who got 32 points and 11 rebounds from Durant.

Bosh and Wade, the other members of the Big Three who sat alongside James as he promised titles at his Miami welcoming party, both had strong games. Bosh, who wept as the Heat left their own court after losing Game 6 last year, finished with 24 points and Wade scored 20. The Heat also got a huge boost from Mike Miller, who made seven 3-pointers and scored 23 points.

That all made it easier for James, the most heavily scrutinized player in the league since his departure from Cleveland, when he announced he was "taking his talents to South Beach" on a TV special called "The Decision" that was criticized everywhere from water coolers to the commissioner's office. James has said he wishes he handled things differently, but few who watched the Cavs fail to assemble championship talent around him could have argued with his desire to depart.

He found in Miami a team where he never had to do it alone, though he reminded everyone during this sensational postseason run that he still could when necessary. He got support whenever he needed it in this series, from Shane Battier's 17 points in Game 2 to Mario Chalmers' 25 in Game 4.

In the clincher it was Miller, banged up from so many injuries that he limped from the bench to scorer's table when he checked in. He made his fourth 3-pointer of the half right before James' fast-break basket capped a 15-2 run that extended Miami's lead to 53-36 with 4:42 remaining in the first half.

The Thunder were making a remarkably early trip to the finals just three years after starting 3-29, beating the Mavericks, Lakers and Spurs along the way. With Durant, Russell Westbrook, Serge Ibaka and James Harden all 23 or younger, the Thunder have the pieces in place for a lengthy stay atop the Western Conference.

But their inexperience showed in this series, a few questionable decisions, possessions and outright mistakes costing them in their franchise's first finals appearance since Seattle lost to Chicago in 1996. Westbrook scored 19 but made only four of his 20 shots, unable to come up with anything close to his 43-point outing in Game 4, and Harden finished a miserable series with 19.

"It hurts, man," Durant said. "We're all brothers on this team and it just hurts to go out like this. We made it to the finals, which was cool for us, but we didn't want to just make it there. Unfortunately we lost, so it's tough."

Nothing they did could have stopped James, anyway.

Appearing fully over the leg cramps that forced him to sit out the end of Game 4, he was dominant again, a combination of strength and speed that is practically unmatched in the game and rarely seen in its history.

Wade skipped to each side of the court before the opening tip with arms up to pump up the fans, then James showed them nothing wrong with his legs, throwing down an emphatic fast-break dunk to open the scoring. He made consecutive baskets while being fouled, showing no expression after the second, as if he'd hardly even known he was hit. Drawing so much attention from the Thunder, he started finding his wide-open shooters, and the Heat built a nine-point lead before going to the second up 31-26.

Oklahoma City got back within five early in the third before consecutive 3-pointers by Chalmers and Battier triggered a 27-7 burst that made it 88-63 on another 3-pointer by Miller. James didn't even score in the run until it was almost over, hitting a pair of free throws after he was flagrantly fouled by Derek Fisher while powering toward the basket.

Gone was the tentative player who was mocked for shrinking on the big stage last year, too willing to defer to others who didn't possess half his talents. This time, he was at peace off the court and on attack on it, vowing to have no regrets and playing in such a way they wouldn't be necessary.

James promised multiple titles at his welcoming party, and the Heat have three pieces to build around. Pat Riley will have to fill some holes on the roster, but will likely find some players eager to come to Miami for the good weather and great chance to win.

Miller was one of them last year, and though injuries have ruined his effectiveness, his shooting turned this into the only blowout of the series after Miami had outscored Oklahoma City by just 389-384 over the first four games.

THUNDER

From Page 28

ing they had to have that proverbial Game 7—win or else—mentality.

Apparently, they chose else.

"You hate to go home and not win the whole thing. ... We lost to a team that played better than us in four of the five games," Brooks said.

Even though it was a five-point game after one quarter, a 10-point game at the half and still a two-possession game early in the third quarter, the Thunder simply did not have enough answers for the barrage that came from Miami.

Forget Miami's Big Three of Wade, LeBron James and Chris Bosh. It was more like a Big Six for the Heat on this night. Two years of work, and a year of frustration after falling to Dallas in the title round a year ago, came pouring out of the Heat.

By the time the third quarter was over, Miami had six players in double figures. Oklahoma City? Just two.

And that was largely the downfall of Oklahoma City in this series. Durant was consistently great. Westbrook had more good moments than bad, by far. But the third option simply wasn't there, or at least, wasn't there often enough.

"The best two teams were in the finals," James said.

This Thunder team is built to contend for this title for a long time to come. Durant and Westbrook are already exceptional, and likely nowhere near their prime. Harden was the best sixth man in the league all season, though he struggled big-time in this series. Serge Ibaka is one of the best defenders in the league. The general manager, Sam Presti, is extremely well thought of in just about every league circle. And Oklahoma City has proven itself to be a city that loves its team.

More good things for the franchise are certain.

But a title—that wasn't happening, not yet anyway, not against a Heat team that spent a year preparing for this stage. Now, it's Oklahoma City's turn to take a finals loss and use it as motivation.

"You get here because you're good. You get here because you're committed to each other," Brooks said. "We definitely have room to improve. That's what the summers are for."

Durant spent part of this past summer working out with James in the finals MVP's hometown of Akron, Ohio.

He vowed to work even harder this time around.

"I'm going to find the positives and the negatives," Durant said. "It was tough losing the finals. We got to the finals, had a tough road to get here. But we've just got to move past it, I guess, man. It's going to hurt for a little bit. We've got to move past it."

LBJ

From Page 28

after that. Robertson was the original "big guard," a threat to score, hand out assists and grab rebounds, the only player in league history to average a triple-double over the course of a season. But he played the game at roughly 6-foot-5 and 220 pounds for 14 seasons, retiring in 1974.

James is 6-8 and 250, with much the same skill set, and a RoboCop physique to boot. Considering how many individual awards he's already piled up in nine seasons—MVPs, scoring championships, All-Star selections and record-book entries—his accomplishments might one day dwarf all those of guys who played the same spot on the floor.

That means Jordan, Magic Johnson and Kobe Bryant, each of whom won multiple championships. Think back to the day when the argument over best-ever was confined to the dominant big men: Bill Russell, who won 11 titles in Boston, versus Wilt Chamberlain, who won two. And if it comes down to rings, Clyde Drexler, another big guard voted onto the "NBA's 50 Greatest Players" honor roll, wonders whether James will ever get his due.

Like James, he came up short several times in the postseason in Portland, then moved to Houston alongside Hakeem Olajuwon and won his only championship.

"I'm one of those guys who says you can't view team sports the same way you view individual sports. If he gets you 30-plus points, 10 rebounds a night and I'm his teammate and I miss two free throws at the end of the night, is he a great player or not? And does he have to rely on other people for that judgment?" Drexler said, without waiting for an answer. "No.

"The guy has an unbelievable resume, he's the most unselfish, hard-working guy on the court and if you're a fan of the game, you can't help but love the way the guy plays the game. So here's one way to look at it. Before `The Decision,' he was one of the most revered athletes' on the planet. After `The Decision'—and it wasn't the best way he could have handled that situation, but it's over—people just, just sort of threw him down the stairs.

"I know what Michael (Jordan) said about playing against your rivals instead of with them. But when I got to Houston and started playing with Hakeem, frankly, I needed a lighter load. I knew I wouldn't have to work as hard.

"With LeBron, the expectations were outsized once he said he was going to Miami," Drexler said finally. "He met those once. We'll find out how much he's got left."

The funny thing about success for guys that good is that it cranks up expectations instead of easing them. What marked Jordan as special is that every offseason, after the cigars were extinguished, the champagne ran out and the trophy was passed around, he went back to work turning a weakness—left-handed dribble, mid-range jump shots, developing a fadeaway to avoid blocked shots—into a strength.

It's that trait that Magic thinks will ultimately decide how far James continues climbing the ranks. Noting James was already a deadly scorer, a top-shelf passer and as tough a rebounder as he needed to be, Johnson said his improved post-up game—following extensive offseason training with Olajuwon—had already established James as "the most unstoppable force we have in the NBA."

"Before, my biggest knock on LeBron was he was just playing off his God-gifted talent," Johnson said during a conference call before Game 5. "He was just the best athlete. But he didn't play with his head to match that. Now he's playing with his talent and with his head, and wow, watch out. This guy is going to set the league on fire for a long time. ... I know there was an earlier question about how dominant has his performance been. We look to see this from LeBron for years and years to come."

We'd better.

After all, he promised "not two, not three, not ..." well, you get the idea.

Ashley's blasts Star Water in Blue Haus caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Ashley's Jack Lizama tries to drive past Star Water's White Capalad in Thursday's Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League A Division matchup at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Ashley's broke into the win column after subduing Star Water, 101-79, in the A Division of last Thursday's Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League matchup at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Ashley's first triumph came on its fourth try, while Star Water is still in search of a victory after three games.

In addition, B Division's Wanted Sponsor moved up in the ranks with a win-loss mark of 3-2 and trails only Loving Hands Daycare (3-1) in the standings.

Wanted Sponsor outlasted rival squad Saipan Hardware (3-2), 73-65, in Thursday's opener after stealing an 80-79 win over Hip Hop Thunder (1-4) last Saturday. Rain suspended Saturday's late feature between Division B's NVM (2-1) and Cargo Express (2-2).

Frontrunner QQ Rent-A-Car (4-1), DLX (3-1) and R-Rebels (2-1) make up the rest of the A Division.

The season continues tonight with NVM calling over Loving Hands at 6pm followed by the R-Rebels against Star Water at 8:30pm.

Saipan Hardware worked the ball around well in the opening frame of Thursday's opener as seven different players put a hand in for a 20-13, advantage.

However, Wanted Sponsor's Lawrence Rollon and Dave Sablan tallied 6 points apiece in the second quarter to pull their team within a basket, 30-32, at the half.

Wanted Sponsor's Banjo Basilla and Kae Bernardo then each dropped 8 points in the third period that helped extend their team to a 56-50 lead heading into the last 10 minutes.

Wanted Sponsor's Sablan added 6 markers in the fourth quarter as the team coasted to the solid win. He led four teammates in double figures with 16, while Saipan Hardware's Zack Babauta buried six late free throws and matched Sablan's game total.

Wowie Abuel drained two treys for 8 points in the first quarter of Thursday's late match as Ashley's spurted out to an early 30-22 margin.

He and Edmark Mendoza hooked up for 11 checks in the second quarter, but Star Water came back and made it a 1-point match, 46-47, at halftime.

Star Water's trio of Marlon De Dios, Ron Gamboa, and Ernie Moises combined for 33 points in the first half.

Ashley's Dennis Cortez and Jack Lizama got things going after the break and delivered 8 points apiece to push the squad ahead, 71-62, heading into the last canto.

Ashley's transition offense wore out Star Water midway through the final 10 minutes as the score got out of hand late in the contest.

Lizama led all scorers with 24 points, while Abuel came in one shy. Star Water's Gamboa turned in 18 in defeat.

On Saturday, Wanted Sponsor's Kae Bernardo heated up early with 7 points that helped his crew build a 15-11 lead.

He was held to a basket in the second quarter as Hip Hop Thunder roared in front, 38-31, at halftime. Eight different players chipped in on the rally.

Bernardo barreled down low for 13 markers in the third quarter, but Hip-Hop Thunder maintained a 62-54 cushion heading into the final period thanks to 9 points and some nifty assists by Rodney Sacramento.

Wanted Sponsor shrugged off the deficit at crunch time thanks largely to the 12 points in the clutch by Rex Yabut who got the team's final bucket to fall, clinching the win.

He finished one fewer than Bernardo's 24, while Hip-Hop Thunder's Ivan Devero scrambled for 16 in the loss.

THURSDAY
First Game

Sponsor Wanted 73 –Sablan 16, Bernardo 14, Rollon 14, Miranda 13, Basilla 12, Deleon Guerrero 3, Pantaleon 2.

Saipan Hardware 65 –Babauta 16, Peredo 11, Lauron 9, Quan 9, Park 4, Lansang 2, Diaz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-20, 30-32, 56-50, 73-65.

Second Game

Ashley's 101 –Lizama 24, Abuel 23, Mendoza 16, Cortez 12, Usi 10, Mungcal 7, Norita 6, Ito 1.

Star Water 79 – Gamboa 18, Moises 11, Capalad 10, Gomez 8, Rivera 7, Santos 3, Sacramento 2.

Scoring by quarters: 30-22, 47-46, 71-62, 101-79.

SATURDAY

Wanted Sponsor 80 – Bernardo 25, Yabut 24, Basilla 7, Miranda 7, Rollon 6, Pantaleon 4, Cadag 4, Deleon Guerrero 2.

Hip Hop Thunder 79 – I. Devero 16, Castro 10, Libuw 9, Sacramento 8, N. Mateo 7, D. Mateo 7, C. Devero 14, Culala 5, Durant 4.

Scoring by quarters: 15-11, 31-38, 54-62, 80-79.

Hyundai Accent, United roundtrip tickets up for grabs in NMC Open

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The 10th Annual Northern Marianas College Foundation Open is scheduled for June 30 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort's west course.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There are two special hole-in-one prizes featured in the 10th Annual Northern Marianas College Foundation Open scheduled for next Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort's west course. Show time is set for 6am with a 7am shotgun start.

The NMC Foundation would like to invite golfers and anyone interested to come out and play next week for a great cause," said NMC Foundation president Ivan Quichocho. "We work hard to host a fun memorable event, as well as an exciting competition each year."

The entrance fee is set at $95 per person; payments can be made at Laolao Bay, Triple J Motors, and at the NMC cashier's office.

The lucky golfer who manages to sink a hole-in-one in hole No. 3 will win a free roundtrip ticket provided by United Airlines, while anyone who drains an ace in hole No. 17 wins a brand new 2012 Hyundai Accent from Triple J Motors.

The tournament follows a medal play format where the Top 3 place finishers of the Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies flights get cash prizes.

First place in each division will receive $500 and a United Airlines roundtrip ticket to Guam, Hong Kong, Manila, or Australia.

Runners-up will be awarded $300 and third place finishers will be issued $200 cash.

In addition, $2,500 worth of raffle prizes will also be awarded during the awards banquet held at Laolao Bay after conclusion of the event; closest to the pin side bets will also be available.

The event aims to benefit the higher education of the CNMI. Proceeds generated will go toward supporting NMC's academic programs and services.

The tournament is organized by the NMC Foundation with assistance from the college's staff, faculty, and students. The NMC Foundation is composed of community volunteers committed to evaluating higher education opportunities in the CNMI.

Bae Man carded a gross score of 74 to top 11 other golfers and win last year's Championship Flight, which was also held at Laolao's west course,.

Jun Yi Piao, who at the young age of 18, topped the 27-player A Flight with a net 79. He defeated Tars Olopai after three sudden death holes.

Lito Mendoza bested the 35-player B Flight with a net card of 82. Rufin Inos' 87 took first place in C Flight, while Joe A. Lizama defeated 20 other seniors with a 78 net tally. Jeong Yoon Kim beat out a dozen other ladies with a gross scores of 79.

The event is open to the first 120 participants; registration is ongoing and anyone interested in playing can download a registration form at www.nmcnet.edu or pick up a hard copy at Laolao Bay, the NMC cashier's office, Marianas Country Club, Saipan Country Club, Dandan Golf Range, King Fisher Golf Links, Triple J Motors, or All Star Sporting Goods.

Other sponsors include Caronel Watch Center, Dial Rent-To-Own, First Hawaiian Bank, Luen Fung Enterprises, Pacific Trading Company, Take Care, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Chong's Corp., Docomo Pacific, Island Apparel, Napa Auto Parts, Power 99, Toothworks, and Triple J Five-Star Wholesale Foods.

For more information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or call 234-5498 ext. 1050 or 1051.

Young Guns, Hoops notch wins in Mini-Rascals caging

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Young Guns' Roger Valencia tries to beat Hoops' full-court press in their RBC Mini-Rascal Youth Basketball Tournament U14 division matchup Thursday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U10's Young Guns smoked the Little Rollers, 20-10, in the Rollers Basketball Club's inaugural Mini-Rascals Youth Basketball Tournament U10 opener, while the U12 age division's Hoops torched Young Guns, 31-15, in the second pairing.

U14's Fast And Tough, meanwhile, had to forfeit to Hoops in the late feature. All games were played at the Garapan Basketball Court.

J.P. Cruz carried the torch for U10's Young Guns with 8 points in the first half that helped them assert a 14-10 lead at the break. However, he was held to just a basket in the payoff period.

Rollers' Corin Goron matched Cruz's total of 10 points with a pair of early field goals in the second frame, while her teammate Taka Borja provided 4 points that locked it at 18-all in the late minutes.

In the end, however it was Young Guns' Kyle Chua who saved the day with the big bucket that nabbed the win.

Young Guns' John Granada pulled on a 7-point string off the tip in the U14 feature for a slim, 9-8, favor at intermission, but Hoops' Angelo Factor took over the game in the second half with three strikes from behind the arc for 17 points in what turned out to be a runaway. Granada was held to just one of his team's dismal 6-point effort late in the game.

The season continues on Tuesday with U10's Little Rebels against the Young Guns at 5pm followed by U12's Rascals versus the Young Guns at 5:40pm. Then the U14 is scheduled for 6:20pm between the Rollers and the Bombers.

Notably, the U10 and U12 playoffs start on Thursday.

U10 Game

Young Guns 20 – Garon 10, T. Borja 6, I. Borja 2, Chua 2.

Little Rollers 18 – Cruz 10, Metran 8.

Scoring by halves: 10-14, 20-18.

U12 Game

Hoops 31 – A. Factor 17, Dawei 6, Chua 2, T Factor 2, Qui 2, Tam 2.

Young Guns 15 – Granada 9, Valencia 2, Arroyo 2, I Borja 2

Scoring by halves: 8-9,31-15.

Espinosa hit lifts Nationals over Rays, 5-2

25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Mathis' ace launches him to lead at Travelers

26

James' triple-double lifts Heat to title

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

MIAMI(AP)—Best player in the game. Best team in the league.

The Finals

Now NBA champion, too.

LeBron James is finally savoring it all since taking his talents to South Beach.

"Happiest day of my life," he said.

James had 26 points, 11 rebounds and 13 assists, leading the Heat in a 121-106 rout of the Oklahoma City Thunder on Thursday night to win the NBA Finals in five games.

All that was left was a celebration nine years in the making—and two years after his acrimonious parting from the Cavaliers.

"It means everything," James said moments before being named the playoffs MVP to go along with his regular-season award. "I made a difficult decision to leave Cleveland but I understood what my future was about ... I knew we had a bright future (in Miami). This is a dream come true for me. This is definitely when it pays off."

James left the game along with Dwyane

See JAMES on Page 26

AP

Miami Heat shooting guard Dwyane Wade holds the the Larry O'Brien NBA Championship Trophy, and small forward LeBron James holds his most valuable player trophy during a team picture with power forward Chris Bosh, point guard Norris Cole, and guard Terrel Harris, from left, after Game 5 of the NBA finals basketball series against the Oklahoma City Thunder, Friday, June 22, 2012, in Miami. The Heat won 121-106 to become the 2012 NBA Champions.

Thunder season comes to crashing end

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP SPORTS WRITER

MIAMI (AP)—A week ago, they were leading the NBA Finals. And now, the Oklahoma City Thunder are heading home for the summer to ruminate over lessons doled out by the Miami Heat.

Favorites coming into the series, the Thunder fell in Game 5 of the finals Thursday night, as Miami finished off its run to a championship by beating the Thunder 121-106. Oklahoma City's 11-point win in Game 1 is long forgotten and irrelevant now, considering that for the first time in more than three years, the Thunder have lost four straight games.

At the absolute worst time, on the absolute biggest stage, no less.

"When you play against the best, you learn," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said.

Kevin Durant had 32 points and 11 rebounds, and Russell Westbrook finished with 19 points for the Thunder, though Westbrook's night—one game removed from a 20-for-32 performance from the field—came on a night where he shot 4 for 20. They came out with 4:44 left, the outcome long decided, the Heat fans going delirious.

"We made it to the finals, which was cool for us, but we didn't want to just make it there," Durant said. "Unfortunately we lost, so it's tough. It's tough, man. That's the only way I can explain it. But as a whole, I'm proud of the guys on how we fought all season."

James Harden scored 19 points and Derek Fisher added 11 for the Thunder.

Down 10 at the half, the Thunder cut the deficit in half by the time the third quarter was a minute old. It was the last gasp of the season—Miami put the game, and the title, away with a 34-13 burst that pushed the lead to 93-67 on a three-point play by Dwyane Wade with 1:23 left in that pivotal quarter.

Mike Miller connected on his sixth 3-pointer of the night, and Miami's 13th, on the first possession of the fourth quarter. Miller would soon add another, for good measure.

From that point, the clock wasn't ticking down time left in the game. It was ticking down the time left in Oklahoma City's season.

"We know what this feeling feels like," Westbrook said. "We'll remember this feeling, and that will push everybody in the summer, just try to keep everybody going and keep everybody's heads up."

The Thunder came in say-

See THUNDER on Page 26

AP

Oklahoma City Thunder small forward Kevin Durant and point guard Russell Westbrook (0) watch the final moments of Game 5 of the NBA finals basketball series against the Miami Heat, Thursday, June 21, 2012, in Miami.

By JIM LITKE
AP Sports Columnist

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.

LBJ gets a better seat among NBA's greats

Some of the NBA's greatest players ever didn't need to see a championship ring to count LeBron James in their ranks.

In what amounts to a game of "musical chairs"—and that's what ranking "the greatest anything" comes down to—a few sounded prepared to give up their seats. But if James wants to occupy the last one, if it's important to him to be the best of the best, the ring he picked up Thursday night better not be his last. He has a lot of ground to make up.

Michael Jordan, who stubbornly kept trying to win a championship by himself, got his first ring in his seventh season in Chicago and won six before he retired—the second time. Ever competitive, he still refuses every offer to comment on any other player, let alone compare them to you-know-who.

Oscar Robertson, who made a career setting up teammates to succeed, squandered a decade trying to win in Cincinnati, then moved to Milwaukee and partnered with a young Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to get his first and only title. He couldn't have been more complimentary about James.

"He's getting smarter, he's only 27 and still too sensitive to what people think about him. He'll get over that and if nothing else, it stops the `when are you ...' talk," Robertson said. "Then he won't give a damn what they say. That's when we'll see real LeBron come out."

It's been an article of faith in sports that sooner or later, the "next one" will come along. If not in this era, then the next, or the one

See LBJ on Page 26